TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 48 Number 1 March 2024

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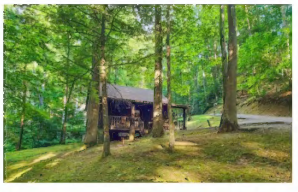
TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY Annual Conference & Meeting ROAN MOUNTAIN STATE PARK, JUNE 7-9, 2024

The Tennessee Native Plant Society is delighted to announce that registration for its 2024 Annual Conference will be open on **March 1st**, online or via mail-in registration using the form in this newsletter. The Conference will be held at the beautiful Roan Mountain State Park in northeast Tennessee on Friday, June 7, Saturday, June 8, and Sunday, June 9. The 2,000-acre park is located at the base of Roan Mountain, which is not one mountain but a five-mile ridgetop of different elevations, each rich with plant life.

June in Roan Mountain is like spring in the valley. The temperatures typically stay in the 70s during the day and the 50s at night, perfect for hiking and sleeping. If you are lucky enough to rent one of the cabins in the park, you enjoy a rocking chair on the porch, a full kitchen and bathroom, gas-powered heat, and a wood-burning stove. There are also campsites for tents and RVs.



If you prefer a hotel room or the cabins are full, TNPS has secured a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn in Johnson City, TN, about 45 minutes from the park. The hotel address is 508 N State of Franklin Road, Johnson City, TN 37604. The TNPS group rate is $139 per night for a room with a king-size bed and sofa bed or 2 queen-sized beds. A block of rooms will be reserved for TNPS until May 10, 2024. By comparison, nightly room rates for similar hotels in the area range from $189 to $250 per night and up.

Below is a link for you to use to book a room online with the Hampton Inn within the TNPS block at the group rate. The link is available for use now:

TNPS Special Rate Hampton Inn

You may also call the hotel at (423) 929-8000 to book your room. You will need to reference the Tennessee Native Plant Society group and the dates required to receive the group rate

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TNPS Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the Tennessee Native Plant Society and is published four times a year, generally March, June, September, and December.

The Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS) was founded in 1977. Its purposes are to assist in the exchange of information and encourage fellowship among Tennessee's botanists, both amateur and professional; to promote public education about Tennessee flora and wild plants in general; to provide, through publication of a newsletter or journal, a formal means of documenting information onTennessee flora and of informing the public about wild plants; and to promote the protection and enhancement of Tennessee's wild plant communities.

Dues for each calendar year are:

Individual/Family: $20

Student: Complimentary

Institution: $50

Life: $250

Dues may be sent to:

Tennessee Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 159274

Nashville, TN 37215

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President's Musings

This is the time of year to dream about warmer weather, about the native plants we will see on our hikes, and about the native plants we hope to find at a plant sale. This year I hope to find Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) and Sundrops (*Oenothera fruiticosa*). Meanwhile we can find some contentment in reading about native plants. Nancy Lawson has a new book out called "Wildscape" and NWFs "Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife" looks enticing too.

I'm also dreaming about finding a volunteer to assist me with the technical aspects of TNPS. The website, the seminars, our Dropbox library of slides and now Neon all require some teachable technical skills. If you have a techno bent and a little time that you can volunteer to help keep TNPS running, please contact me at info@tnps.org. I would so love to hear from you.

If you are willing to volunteer, but in a non-technical capacity and happen to live in the Memphis region of the state, please contact me about the vacant Education Outreach Coordinator position. This would involve offering TNPS memberships, selling our Wildflower books, and generally interacting with the public at tabletop events in the area two to six times a year. You decide how often.

Just a reminder that I will be stepping down from the Presidency at the end of 2024. I would love to have time before then to train others to do some of what I have been doing. Good replacement presidential candidates don't have the skill or time to invest in all the technologies that now keep TNPS running, and I will not have the time or energy to devote to continuing these activities indefinitely. At age 77 I am slowing down! Please, consider volunteering. The pay is terrible, but the reward of seeing TNPS flourish is amazing.

This issue of the TNPS newsletter contains most of our events for the year: at least 17 field trips, our monthly seminar schedule, and information on the hikes and seminars at our Annual Meeting & Conference on Roan Mountain June 7-9. All are listed on our website Calendar along with native plant sales and our table events across the state. All our members should find something of interest, something in which to participate. We are always open to suggestions for future field trips and seminar speakers.

Remember, this organization was created for us to learn and share what we have learned about native plants and how to conserve them and their habitats. What have you learned lately? How have you shared that information?

Karen

(Continued from page 1)

Again, the TNPS room block will be reserved through May 10, 2024, after which any unused rooms in the block will be released, room rates will increase, and booking is subject to availability.

All TNPS meetings, meals, and presentations will take place at the Roan Mountain Conference Center, adjacent to the Park Office. This venue offers a spacious meeting room with a breathtaking panoramic view of the mountains. Although Wi-Fi and cell service are unavailable in the cabins and much of the park, the Conference Center provides excellent Wi-Fi connectivity both inside the building and on the large porch.

When you register, you can purchase meal tickets for catered dinners on Friday and Saturday nights and a bagged lunch on Saturday. These meals will cost $15-$22 each. We hope you will join us for these meals, as they are a great time to socialize and get to know your fellow TNPS members.

We also plan to have conference tee shirts available for purchase online. The pictured design will be available in short or long sleeves with color options for $20 - $25 each. You will choose your tee shirt style, color, and size and pay for the tee shirt online. Once ordered, the tee shirt can be delivered directly to you (you pay shipping), or you can pick it up at the conference (free shipping). Since tee shirts require a minimum order, we would like you to indicate on the registration form if you plan to purchase one. If we have sufficient interest, we will let conference attendees know how to order their tee shirts.

We have an excellent mix of field trips and presentations planned for the conference. A detailed conference schedule is on page 4, and descriptions of the conference field trips are on pages 9 and 10.

The following highlights the excellent speakers and their presentations:

Friday Night Presentation: 7-8:30 pm: "Threatened / Endangered Plants of the Southern Appalachian Region" by Professor Matt Estep of Appalachian State University. Dr. Matt C. Estep has been an Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at Appalachian State University in Boon, NC, since 2012, where he teaches classes in human and conservation genetics, among others. He has also been a Tater Hill Plant Preserve Conservation steward since 2015 and treasurer of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society.

Saturday Day Presentation 10-11:00 am: "Thirty of the Best Underused Native Plants" by John Manion. John earned a Master's Degree in Public Garden Leadership at Cornell University. He is currently the Coordinator of Education and Outreach for Overhill Gardens, a large native plant nursery in Vonore, Tennessee. He has also served as Curator for Reflection Riding Nature Center, Chattanooga, TN, Kaul Wildflower Garden, Birmingham, Alabama, and the Historic Gardens at the Atlanta History Center, Georgia.

Saturday Night Presentation: 7:00 to 8:00 pm "No Place Like the Roan - 50 years of Ensuring a Highland Legacy" by Marquette Crockett. Marquette has over 15 years of wildlife management experience. As Director of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, a position she has held since 2014, she is the primary steward of nearly 10000 acres of protected lands in the Highlands of Roan. She also coordinates multi-agency and volunteer efforts to maintain Roan's grassy balds and serves as a co-chair for the Southern Appalachian Spruce. Marquette holds an MS in Biological Sciences from East Tennessee State University.

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In addition to a great line-up of speakers, we have an equally great group of field trip leaders:

Ranger Marty Silver, from the Warriors Path State Park in Kingsport, TN, is a well-known park ranger in the Tri-Cities area. He has served in the park system for over 40 years. Ranger Marty frequently leads hikes at Tennessee State Parks, gives nature presentations to park guests, and to students in the local schools. Marty brings excitement and humor to all of his events. Participants are sure to enjoy spending the morning with him on field trip to the Grassy Ridge Bald in the Roan Highlands.

Ken Rea is a TNPS member living in Johnson City, TN,. He works at the First Tennessee Development District where he is responsible for grant writing and project administration. Ken enjoys hiking in the Appalachian mountains and identifying the many wild plants found in the area. He is a member of the Mid-Appalachian Highlands Hiking Club, and leads several of the club's hikes. Ken will be leading the Saturday afternoon field trip to the Rhododendron Gardens and Roan High Knob.

Gary Kauffman is a senior botanist/ecologist with the USDA Forest Service, National Forest Division in North Carolina, a position he has held for the past 17 years. Areas he serves include the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests. His work involves forest-level planning, maintenance, and restoration of rare plants and communities, and invasive plant management. Gary specializes in rare plants, some of which may be seen on our field trip to Roan Highlands with a hike along the Cloudland Trail to the Roan High Knob on Sunday morning.

TNPS 2024 Conference Schedule

Day 1: Friday, June 7. 2024. 3:00 pm - Arrive and check in for those staying at the park.

3:00 - 6:00 pm - Pick up your conference badge, meal tickets, and pre-ordered tee shirts, and attend a pre-conference social. TNPS will supply some sodas, water, and snacks, but feel free to bring other snacks and beverages to share.

6:00 to 7:00 pm – Catered Dinner (with pre-purchased meal ticket).

7:00 – 8:30 pm – Welcome to the conference and announcements, followed by the presentation **"Threatened / Endangered Plants of the Southern Appalachian Region"** by Professor Matt Estep of Appalachian State University.

Day 2: Saturday, June 8, 2024

7:30 am – Meet at the Pool Parking Area for **Field Trip 1, a Hike from Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge Bald.** The leader is Marty Silver, a Park Ranger with Warriors' Path State Park**.**

9:00 am – Late arrivals should pick up your conference badge, meal tickets, and pre-ordered tee shirts at the TNPS information table in the Conference Center.

10:00 to 11:00 am - Presentation **"Thirty of the Best Underused Native Plants"** by John Manion, Coordinator of Education and Outreach, Overhill Gardens in Vonore, TN.

11:30 to 1:00 pm – pre-ordered box lunches will be available for pickup at the Conference Center.

1:00 pm - Meetup at the Pool Parking Area for **Field Trip 2, a Hike from Rhododendron Gardens to Roan High Bluff.** The leader is Ken Rea, a local area TNPS member.

2:00 pm - Meetup at the Pool Parking Area for **Field Trip 3, a guided visit to Miller Farmstead,** a historic home site and pollinator garden in the park.

6:00 to 7:00 pm – Catered Dinner (with pre-purchased meal ticket) at the Conference Center.

7:00 to 8:00 pm - Presentation **"No Place Like the Roan - 50 years of ensuring a Highland Legacy"** by Marquette Crockett, Director of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.

8:00 – 9:00 pm - Annual TNPS Membership Meeting followed by drawing for bluebird house (returned name badges are the drawing tickets)

Day 3, Sunday, 6/9/2024

8:00 am - Meetup at the Pool Parking Area for **Field Trip 4, a Hike from Cloudland Trail to Roan High Bluff.** The leader is Gary Kauffman, a senior botanist and ecologist working with the US Forest Service National Forests Division in North Carolina.

2024 TNPS Field Trip & Events Schedule

MARCH 5 (TUESDAY) UTK Herbarium Tour, Knox Co.

Description: Remember the field trips you took in elementary school? Well, you can relive the experience as we venture into the great indoors to tour the UTK Herbarium. Herbarium staff will lead us through the herbarium which is the largest in Tennessee with a little over 649,000 vascular and non-vascular plants, fungi, lichens, and macroalgae. Visitors will get to learn about the process that plants go through to become specimens in the collections, see the collection space and learn about how it's organized, find out how the collections are used, and hear about ongoing projects. There will also be some interesting specimens on display from the "Cabinet of Curiosities" for folks to get a closer look at. Limit of 15 participants.

Meeting Place/Time: Meet in front of or just inside the front doors of Temple Hall (1818 Andy Holt Avenue) at 5:00 PM Eastern. People will be able to park in the S23 parking lot next to Temple Hall but depending on the popularity of the baseball game against Kansas State at 6:00 PM it may fill up quickly, so I encourage folks to carpool. We have one reserved space that someone will be able to park in and then other cars are welcome to park anywhere else in the S23 lot they can find a space. There are also visitor parking spaces by the McClung Museum at Circle Park.

Difficulty: Easy

Facilities: At the Herbarium

Leaders: Margaret Oliver molive18@utk.edu (865-974-6213) and Allen Sweetser, ssretiree@yahoo.com (865-223-9914). Please let the leaders know if you plan on attending.

MARCH 30 (SATURDAY) Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, Shelby Co.

Description: We will hike the three-mile Woodland Trail. The spring ephemerals should be starting to put on quite a show. This hike may be strenuous for some. Please assess your own fitness level before signing in for safety and consideration of other program participants. This trip is in conjunction with the Division of Natural Areas. Participants should register at the Natural Area Events page. There is no charge for the event.

Meeting Place/Time: The Park Visitor Center at **9:00 AM Central**. The trip is scheduled to end around 1:00 PM.

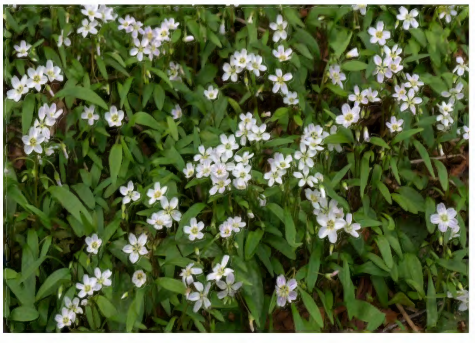
Difficulty: Moderate due to the length, there are also some steep elevation changes.

Facilities: At the meeting place.

Lunch: On your own after hike, but you might want to bring snacks to eat along the trail.

Leaders: Allan Trently allan.trently@tn.gov (731-234-4887), Bart Jones bjones7777@hotmail.com (901-485-2745).

Virginia bluebells, *Mertensia virginica*



Spring beauty, *Claytonia virginica*

Common blue violets, *Viola sororia*

APRIL 7 (SUNDAY) Tennessee Trillium Preserve, Hawkins Co.

Description: Join the East Tennessee stewardship ecologist for a State Natural Areas Week celebration of rare species with a trip and picnic to the newly acquired Tennessee Trillium Preserve. The Tennessee trillium is a recently described species and known to occur only at this and possibly 2 other locations. The trillium population is at the bottom of a short, steep hill so attendees must be in good physical condition to make the trek up and down the hill, approximately one-tenth of a mile. Please wear appropriate footwear and bring food and_water. There are no facilities. While this won't be a long trip, you may remain as long as you like, and you are free to botanize on the rest of the property. We'd like to tally the number of plants we see to begin a yearly or biannual monitoring of the population to assess its stability, so you can participate in some citizen science if you like on this inaugural trip! We will also see some *Rubus phoenicolasius* (wineberry, tasty, but dreadfully invasive) and we'll pull it up opportunistically! The site is by a small creek which we must cross and can be wet and muddy. We are limiting the number of participants to 15 to limit site impact. Parking is limited, so we request that you carpool. Lisa Huff can take up to 6 participants in a van from Knoxville, so contact her via email if you would like to ride with her. Be sure to register for the trip on the Natural Areas Week Event page.

Meeting Place/Time: Carpoolers with Lisa meet at 3711 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37921 at **8:30 AM Eastern**. Others meet at the site at **10:00 AM Eastern**. To ensure species protection, specific directions will be provided after event registration closes. Trip should end around 2:00 PM.

Difficulty: Moderate, steep elevation change.

Facilities: None

Lunch: Bring your own for a picnic lunch.

Leader: Lisa Huff, lisa.huff@tn.gov (865-207-0138)

APRIL 13(SATURDAY) Rock Island State Park, Warren and White Co.

Description: Rock Island State Park is located in the Eastern Highland Rim on the Caney Fork River in Middle Tennessee. The town of Rock Island was a thriving community in pioneer days and a major stop on the Kentucky to Alabama road. The Great Falls Cotton Mill operated there from 1892 to 1902 and the main building is still standing high above the river. The hike will begin at the overlook of Twin Falls. We will then follow along the river downstream to the Blue Hole and loop back past a small cave and waterfall. The trail has a rich spring flora with over 100 species recorded during the TNPS plant inventory in 2012. Bring your camera and enjoy the spring wildflowers. After lunch at the Market we will hike the very short but amazingly diverse Badger Flat loop trail.

Meeting Place/Time: 10:00 AM Central at the Twin Falls Parking Lot. From Rock Island (gas station and archway) continue on Hwy 136 over the Caney Fork River. Turn left onto the first road past the bridge (Powerhouse Rd). In about 2 mi. this road will end at the Twin Falls parking lot.

Difficulty: Easy to moderate 2 mile hike. Bring water and snacks.

Facilities: Rock Island Market (none at the trailhead).

Lunch: At the Rock Island Market or (optional) Badger Flat Picnic Area

Leader: Dennis Horn (cell) 931-581-9901 horndd@lighttube.net

Wild blue phlox, *Phlox divaricata*

APRIL 13 (SATURDAY) Frozen Head State Park, Morgan Co.

Description: This is a joint outing for TNPS and the Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning (TCWP). We will have an excellent opportunity to see spring wildflowers. This will be a switch from last year. We will start from Panther Branch Trailhead. The first 0.55 miles is ideal for those with rather limited hiking capabilities; the trail is wide and flat. For those continuing the next 1 mile along Panther Branch is steeper and rougher but still only moderate. Panther Branch is a place to see dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolius*). The early start time is in hope of finding more parking at the trailhead.

Meeting Place/Time: Frozen Head State Park office parking area at **8:30 AM Eastern**.

Difficulty: Moderate with a distance up to 3 miles depending on when you turn back. Easy for the first half mile.

Facilities: At meeting place

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Leader: Larry Pounds. If you RSVP it helps with planning and allows contacting in case of cancelation, Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com

APRIL 20 (SATURDAY) Head of Sequatchie, Cumberland Co.

Description: This is a joint outing for TNPS and TCWP. We will do an out and back hike up a mountain on a new section of the Cumberland Trail. This is a good hike for spring wildflowers. We will start at the new headquarters for the Cumberland Trail.

Meeting Places/Times: 1. Shell Station on the south side of the Peavine exit in Crossville

(9:00 AM Central, 10:00 AM Eastern)

2. Oak Ridge at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot (meet at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) in time to leave Oak Ridge at **8:45 AM Eastern**

Difficulty: The trail will be steep at times. I would suspect we will walk at most 3 miles round trip but people can turn back at any point

Facilities: the meeting places and at the trailhead

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Leader: Larry Pounds. If you RSVP it helps with planning and allows contacting in case of cancelation, Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com

APRIL 20 (SATURDAY) Stillhouse Hollow SNA, Maury Co.

Description: We will visit the newest addition to the natural area, where a second, smaller waterfall occurs and there are different plants located here compared to the original parcel of the natural area. Of course we won't ignore the first part, but we will need to move fairly quickly through it to get to the new site. Spring wildflowers should be at peak. This trip is a joint event with the Swan Conservation Trust.

Meeting Place/Time: Parking lot of the natural area off US Hwy 43 at **10:00 AM Central**

Difficulty: Moderate. Some steep, muddy sections. We will have to follow the railway bed for a short distance to get to the new tract.

Facilities: None, but there are gas stations nearby.

Lunch: Bring your own to eat along the trail.

Leader: Bart Jones, bjones7777@hotmail.com (901-485-2745) and Cynthia Rohrbach, cynthrohr@gmail.com

APRIL 27 (SATURDAY) Oak Ridge Greenway, Anderson Co.

Description: This is sponsored by TNPS and TCWP. We will see late spring wildflowers and do some tree and shrub identification along the paved greenway.

Meeting Place/Time: At the end of Old Edgemore Rd. in Haw Ridge Park (36.01034, 84.16753) at **9:00 AM Eastern**.

Difficulty: This should work for those with limited walking ability. Wheelchairs are a possibility. We will walk or roll on a flattish paved trail. Total out and back distance is perhaps 1.5 miles. As usual attendees can turn back when they want.

Facilities: None

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Leader: Larry Pounds. If you RSVP it helps with planning and allows contacting if there are changes, Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com

MAY 11 (SATURDAY) Big Soddy Creek Gulf Park, Hamilton Co.

Description: The site is a mountain cove with much natural beauty due to its varied botanical environments including stream beds, waterfalls, mountain woodlands and high rock faces. The initial portion of the trip is an entrance trail that follows an old railroad bed along Soddy Creek for 1.1 miles. It is wide and practically flat. From there, the trail crosses a footbridge over Soddy Creek. We will explore several areas on the opposite side of the creek. Plants expected to be seen are dwarf crested iris, fire pink, Indian pink, bergamot, royal fern, two-flowered cynthia and others. Total hiking distance should not exceed 3.5 miles. This is an in-and-out hike, so people can turn around at any point, if desired.

Meeting Place/Time: Meet field trip leader near the entrance gate to the Big Soddy Creek Gulf Park at **10:00 AM Eastern**. Address of the parking area is: 11721 Back Valley Rd, SoddyDaisy, TN 37379. Please email the leader in advance to indicate your plans to attend.

Difficulty: Easy

Facilities: Portable restrooms are positioned along the entrance trail.

Lunch: Bring food and water. We will eat lunch on the trail, possibly at the picnic tables near the footbridge.

Leader: Mitchell Kent, mkent423@gmail.com, (423-580-8380)

MAY 11 or 18 (SATURDAY) Skymont Scout Reservation Orchids, Grundy Co.

Description: Skymont is a sprawling property with many different habitats, including wet fenlike areas where we hope to find Loesel's twayblade (*Liparis loeselii*), a very rare and declining species in Tennessee. We also hope to see a second Liparis species, lily-leaved twayblade (*Liparis liliifolia*), in nearby woodlands as well as numerous pink lady's slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*).

Meeting Place/Time: Because of the vagaries of orchid blooming, there are two dates listed, but we will only go once. There is also a chance the trip will be canceled if the Liparis orchids are not blooming. Therefore, it is imperative that you check with the leader before the May 11 slot to make sure the trip is on or if it is delayed to the next weekend or canceled altogether. At that time, the leader will tell you where to meet and at what time.

Difficulty: Easy. The boggy areas can be wet but they are located quite near to the road.

Facilities: At Skymont.

Lunch: Bring to eat in the field.

Leader: Chuck Wilson, chuckwilson5@bellsouth.net (423-875-9625)

MAY 25 (SATURDAY) Devil's Breakfast Table Scour Prairies, Morgon Co.

Description: This is sponsored by TNPS and TCWP. We will explore the Devil's Breakfast Table Area including a short bushwhack to a small prairie area that is kept open by erosion during flood events. We will spend more time on other places in the same general area if the prairie is flooded. This is a spot to see the federally listed Cumberland rosemary.

Meeting Places/Times: 1. Marathon Gas Station (52 Main St, Crab Orchard) at the Crab

Orchard exit (329) off I-40 east of Crossville (**9:00 AM Central, 10:00 AM Eastern**)

(35.908715047614265, -84.87526755741177)

2. Oak Ridge at the Gold's Gym/Books-A-Million parking lot (meet at the end close to S. Illinois Avenue, near Salsarita's) in time to leave Oak Ridge at **8:45 AM Eastern**

Difficulty: Some may find the short bushwhack difficult. They may opt to spend that part of our time in other easily accessible areas.

Facilities: At meeting places

Lunch: Bring water, lunch, and bug spray

Leader: Larry Pounds. If you RSVP it helps with planning and allows contacting about changes,

Phone/email: 865-705-8516, PoundsL471@aol.com

JUNE 7-9 (FRIDAY-SUNDAY) TNPS Annual Conference. The following four fieldtrips will be limited to conference attendees. Registration for the conference is available online or by mail using the registration form in this newsletter.

JUNE 8 (SATURDAY) Carver's Gap to Grassy Ridge on the Roan Highlands, TN/NC

(TNPS Conference registration is required to attend this fieldtrip)

Description: We will start at the Carver's Gap parking lot and proceed on the trail through spruce-fir forests for about 0.6 mile to Round Ball with its grassy landscape and excellent 360 degree views of surrounding peaks. Round Bald crests at 5826'. From there we will continue via the Appalachian Trail north across Engine Gap to Jane Bald at 6129'. The panoramic views continue to get better as we trek on a spur trail to our destination, Grassy Ridge Bald, at elevation 6139'. Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge is different from other hikes on Roan Mountain in that it is mostly along and through the Balds, with plenty of great views. Depending on the progression of the season, we should see some of the best displays of Catawba Rhododendron. Red Spruce, Fraser Fir and Mountain Ash trees will be seen. We should also see mountain myrtle (*Kalmia buxifolia*) near the summit and numerous other wildflowers along the way.

Meeting Place/Time: It will begin at 7:30 am at the pool parking lot at Roan Mountain State Park where we will gather in carpools and travel approximately 11 miles south on TN State Road 143 to Carvers Gap, elevation 5512'. Note that parking fills up quickly at Carvers Gap in season, hence the early start time.

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous: The trail does get a bit steep at times (after leaving Round Bald), but since this is an in-and-out hike, one could turn back at any point necessary. Some sections of the trail are rocky, so sturdy shoes and a hiking pole are recommended. A light jacket and sunscreen may be desirable. Total hiking distance round trip will be about 4.8 miles. Trip time will be 3 to 4 hours.

Facilities: A compost restroom is available at Carver's Gap Parking Lot

Lunch: Please bring plenty of water and snacks as needed for a 3 to 4 hour hike.

Leader: **Marty Silver**, a Park Ranger with Warriors' Path State Park**.**

JUNE 8 (SATURDAY) Cloudland Canyon Hotel Site/Rhododendron Gardens/Roan High Bluff (TNPS Conference registration is required to attend this fieldtrip)

Description: The high elevation hike (6,267') will begin at the Cloudland Hotel site along the Appalachian Trail where we will botanize in the flowering fields. The next stop will be the Rhododendron Gardens where we should see some Catawba Rhododendron (*Rhododendron catawbiense*). Next we will drive along the gravel road and see the Roan Mountain Bluets (*Houstonia purpurea var. montana*) and Mountain Myrtle (*Kalmia buxifolia*). For those who want a slightly longer trip, we will continue on to Roan High Bluff Overlook (2.4 mile out and back) where we will enjoy amazing panoramic views of the mountains.

Meeting Places/Time: The trip will begin at Roan Mountain State Park at 1:00 pm at the pool parking lot where we encourage you to arrange carpools to the Gardens, as parking is limited. **The cost to enter the area is $3.00 per passenger vehicle,** payable with cash at feed tube at the entrance or via the online pay portal through this link at www.recreation.gov.

Difficulty: The walk through the gardens is an easy .7 mile loop on a concrete path. Most of it is wheelchair accessible. The drive on the gravel road will require little to no walking. Walking through the Cloudland Hotel Site fields and the 2.4 mile out and back hike to Roan Mountain Bluff Overlook is rated easy to moderate. You can make this field trip as short as 1 mile and as long as 4 miles, depending on your preferences and physical ability.

Facilities: There are restrooms at the Rhododendron Gardens trailhead.

Lunch: If you buy a meal ticket, you will be provided a box lunch at the Conference Center before the field trip. There are picnic tables at the gardens if you prefer to eat your lunch there. Make sure to bring plenty of water for the duration of the field trip.

Leader: **Ken Rea**, a local area TNPS member with knowledge of the Appalachian flora.

JUNE 8 (SATURDAY) GUIDED WALK AT THE MILLER FARMSTEAD (TNPS Conference registration is required to attend this fieldtrip)

Description: Before Roan Mountain State Park was established, the lands that now comprise the park were populated by communities of subsistence farmers. The Dave and Louisa Miller family moved to Ripshin Mountain in 1870, where three generations of Millers lived for over 90 years. The farmhouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because it reflects the lifestyle of rural subsistence farmers in Appalachia in the early 20th century. Join park staff for a guided tour of the Miller farmhouse and learn more about the history of Roan Mountain and the people who have called it home for generations. There are also pollinator gardens on the site that may be in bloom.

Meeting Places/Time: The trip will begin at Roan Mountain State Park at 2:00 pm at the pool parking lot where we caravan to the Miller Farmstead in the park.

Difficulty: Easy.

Facilities: No

Lunch: If you buy a meal ticket, you will be provided a box lunch at the Conference Center before the field trip.

Leader: A Roan Mountain Park Ranger will lead this tour.

Butterflyweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*

Common milkweed, *Asclepias syriaca*

Catawba rhododendron, *Rhododendron catawbiense*

JUNE 9 (SUNDAY) Cloudland Canyon to Roan High Bluff in the Roan Highlands
(TNPS Conference registration is required to attend this fieldtrip)

Description: We will follow the Cloudland Trail to the Roan High Bluff overlook at an elevation of 6267'. Hiking distance is about 2.4 miles roundtrip with a mild elevation gain of about 125' at the top. The area of the overlook has a rare high elevation rocky summit plant community that is the habitat for 4 federally listed plant species among others. The trail traverses through spruce-fir forest with Red Spruce, Fraser Fir, and Mountain Ash. If time permits, we may stop at Carvers Gap for a look at the grassy balds and related plant communities. The total time for the trip will be 4 to 5 hours.

Meeting Place/Time: The trip will begin at Roan Mountain State Park at 8:30 am at the pool parking lot. We will gather in carpools and travel approximately 11 miles south on TN State Road 143 to the Roan Highlands. We will proceed onto NC State Road 1348 and drive to the Cloudland Hotel historical site for a brief stop and then continue to the Roan High Bluff trail head.

Difficulty: Moderate: Sections of the trail are rocky, so sturdy shoes and a hiking pole are recommended. Be aware Roan Mountain weather is variable from bright sunshine to windy cool conditions, so you may want to bring sunscreen and a jacket.

Facilities: None

Lunch: Please bring plenty of water and snacks as needed for a 4 to 5 hour hike.

Leader: Gary Kauffman, senior botanist/ecologist with the National Forests in North Carolina

JUNE 18 (TUESDAY) Southern Grasslands Institute and Prairie Project, Montgomery Co.

Description: This is a joint outing with Wild Ones Middle Tennessee Chapter. Get an inside/outside look at the Southeastern Grasslands Institute on a tour of SGI headquarters at Austin Peay State University, including their "Seeds of Success" native seed collection initiative, a tour of the largest collections in a Mid-South herbarium, and a stroll through the Native Plant Teaching and Research garden. Participants who need to leave after the campus tour may do so, but all are welcome to join us at the prairie and then leave from there. Then, we'll drive as a caravan to see a SGI restoration site: 50+ acres of Pennyroyal Plain Prairie at the nearby data center. Mid-June should be peak bloom for this restoration site!

Meeting Places/Times: We will meet at 10 am central time at the SGI headquarters: 311 College Street (the lower level of 317 College Street, Clarksville, TN 37040.) Park in adjacent lot #23 (marked on the APSU campus map). Lot #23 is at 36.53112095262177, -87.35837287384302. Next, we will drive to Lot #43, next to the Herbarium and gardens 36.533020, -87.351924. (#23 from #43 is easy - College St > Eighth St > Jackson Alley > Henry Ave. = left, left, left, left.) The optional last leg of the tour is a caravan to the prairie, about a 15-20 minute drive from campus, located near Boolean Drive and Guthrie Highway. We will share coordinates that day (it is on private property).

Difficulty: Easy, but at the prairie we are advised to wear skin-protective garments and closed-toe shoes for walking through "the millions of forbs in bloom. The thin to sparsely dense grasses and wildflowers are waist-to-shoulder high in June."

Facilities: Restrooms are available at all locations

Leaders: The leader of the headquarters tour will be SGI's volunteer, Laura Hunt, along with Marcello De Vitis, Director of the Native Seed Program; Jared Gorrell, Herbarium Manager; and Cooper Breedon, Plant Conservation Manager. Joanna Brichetto and Richard Hitt will lead the trip to the prairie.

Registration will be limited to 20 participants: RSVP online to Wild Ones Middle TN Chapter at: https://middletennessee.wildones.org/events/

JULY 13 (SATURDAY) Ghost River SNA-Walker Tract, Fayette Co.

Description: In 2022, the Walker Tract which contains the rare sand post oak community was added to the Ghost River State Natural Area. In September 2023, the West Tennessee Stewardship Ecologist led the first natural areas event to this rare community. This year the event is in July when most plants are flowering including hoary skullcap, whitemouth dayflower, and false boneset. The community is the only place in Tennessee to see sand post oak and capillary hair sedge and one of the few areas to see Plukenet's flat-sedge. Visit the Natural Areas Website to register.

Meeting Place/Time: The LaGrange Post Office just south of the Hwy. 57 and Main St. intersection at **10:00 AM Central**.

Difficulty: The event is considered easy. It is recommended that participants wear insect repellent that repels ticks.

Facilities: Possibly at nearby businesses adjacent to the Post Office in LaGrange.

Lunch: After the hike, possibly at a café nearby in LaGrange if it is open.

Leader: **Allan Trently** allan.trently@tn.gov (731-234-4887)

JULY 20 (SATURDAY) Balsam Mountain Loop Motor Tour, Swain Co., North Carolina

Description: Cars will leave the Oconaluftee Visitor Center, travel the Blue Ridge Parkway to Heintooga Ridge Road. Pre-determined stops will occur in order to observe selected wildflower species, a lunch break will occur at the Balsam Mountain picnic area which has restroom facilities. Following lunch, those interested will continue down Balsam Mountain Road (a secondary road) where selected stops are also anticipated, ultimately returning to the starting point. Possible species to observe include *Platanthera psycodes*, *Platanthera ciliaris, Pilosella caespitosa, Rhododendron, Rumex acetosella, Lilium superbum, Solidago juncea, Amianthium muscitoxicum* among others to be determined by scouting prior to the trip.

Meeting Place/Time: Oconaluftee Visitor Center at **9:00 AM Eastern for a 10:00 AM sharp departure**; it is requested that riders "team up" to reduce cars for the trip.

Difficulty: Easy, except for some uphill areas near pullovers; caution should be maintained due to being near roads with potential traffic.

Facilities: At the Visitor Center and at the picnic area.

Lunch: Balsam Mountain picnic area.

Leaders: Allen Sweetser (ssretiree@yahoo.com; 865-223-9914); John F. White (johntennffw@gmail.com; 832-545-4868). It is suggested notifying a leader in advance if interested in participating in the field trip.

Turk's cap lily, *Lilium superbum*

Lesser purple fringed orchid, *Platanthera psychodes*

Flame azalea, *Rhododendron calendulaceum*

AUGUST 17 (SATURDAY) Ketona Glades, Bibb Co, Alabama

Description: We finish our exploration of the famous Ketona Glades of Bibb Co., Alabama with a visit to see the fall wildflowers. During our trip last year, we were fortunate to catch some early-blooming Cahaba torch (*Liatris oligocephala*). We should see more of this at the end of its bloom period. In addition to the Cahaba torch, the highlights should be the sticky rosinweed (*Silphium glutinosum*), Ketona tickseed (*Coreopsis grandiflora* var. *inclinata*), Cahaba daisy fleabane (*Erigeron dolomiticola*), all Ketona Glade endemics. Other interesting plants that we may encounter include Georgia aster (*Symphyotrichum georgianum*), slender blazingstar (*Liatris cylindracea*), Elliott's fanpetals (*Sida elliottii*), and blue sage (*Salvia azurea* var. *grandiflora*).

Meeting Place/Time: We will meet at the parking lot at Kathy Stiles Freeland Bibb County Glades Preserve at **10:00 AM Central**.

Difficulty: Moderate. The rock in the glades outcrops is fairly jagged making walking a bit hazardous. At this time of year, the heat can be very intense, so bring PLENTY of water! We will try to take breaks in the shade if necessary.

Facilities: None.

Lunch: Bring to eat at the parking lot.

Leader: Bart Jones, bjones7777@hotmail.com (901-485-2745)

SEPTEMBER 7 (SATURDAY) Big Hill Pond State Park, Bioblitz, McNairy Co.

Description: Join Cooper Breeden of the Southeastern Grasslands Institute for a BioBlitz of Big Hill Pond State Park. There have been several interesting finds at Big Hill Pond in recent years and we are sure there are more to be found. Bring your notepads, botanical keys, and Wildflowers of Tennessee book and help inventory the plants in the park.

Meeting Place/Time: Meet at the Recreation Area parking area at **10:00 AM Central**.

Difficulty: Moderate, there are areas along the bluff that can be steep.

Facilities: At the campground near the meeting place.

Lunch: Bring to eat in the field.

Leader: Cooper Breeden, cooper.breeden@segrasslands.org (615-545-3277)

SEPTEMBER 28 (SATURDAY) Walker Branch SNA, Hardin Co.

Description: We will walk through a field of ironweed, asters, goldenrods, and other colorful plants. We will discuss plants and the insects that visit them. This field is home for the uncommon Dion Skipper and Southern Plains Bumblebee which was recently proposed for listing on the Endangered Species List. Register for the hike at the Natural Areas Events page.

Meeting Place/Time: We will meet in the parking lot for AutoZone Auto Parts at 235 Water St. Suite A, Savannah, TN 38372 at **9:30 AM Central**. Coordinates of the meeting site are 35.221984, -88.246275.

Difficulty: The walk is considered easy and kid friendly.

Facilities: There are several fast food restaurants nearby on Main St.

Lunch: Bring to eat in the field.

Leader: Allan Trently allan.trently@tn.gov (731-234-4887)

The Tennessee Native Plant Society Presents

2024 Native Plant Seminars

The Tennessee Native Plant Society hosts monthly Native Plant Seminars via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Central (7:30 p.m. Eastern) and lasting about one hour. All members, and potential members, are welcome to attend the seminars. The link to join each seminar will be posted on the *Seminars* and *Calendar* pages of our website (www.tnps.org).

Seminar speakers are drawn from our knowledgeable membership, from professionals across the state and the nation, and from the professors and students studying our Tennessee native plants. The range of topics covered may include plants currently blooming, native plants in our yards, current research on native plants, protections for native plants, and so much more.

Join us for an hour a month to learn more about Tennessee native plants and how we can conserve them for future generations.

2024 TNPS Native Plant Seminar Schedule

January 16 – Mary Priestley, Evolution of Flowering Plants

February 20 – John Manion, Native Ferns

March 19 – Steve Murphree, Cicadas Return

April 16 – Janneke Peterson, Symbiotic Schoolyard

May 21 – Deborah Rosenthal, Restoration Gone Wild

June 18 – Sandra Villasenor, Cane Brakes

July 16 – Ila Hatter, Appalachian Herbal Remedies (tentative)

August 20 – Connie Deegan, Snakes in Your Garden

September 17 – Sara Wittenberg, Pollinators in the Garden

October 15– Elizabeth Hermsen, Plant Fossils of Tennessee

November 19 – Adam Bigelow, Wildflowers of Southern Appalachia

2024 TNPS Conference Registration

Roan Mountain State Park ~ June 7-9

Please complete and return with payment before **May 15th.** Online registration and payment are also available at: https://www.tnps.org/conference/

Please note:

All TNPS meetings, meals, and presentations will take place at the Roan Mountain Conference Center, adjacent to the Park Office. The address is:1011 Highway 143, Roan Mountain, TN 37687.

TNPS has secured a block of rooms at the Hampton Inn in Johnson City, TN, about 45 minutes from the park. The hotel address is 508 N State of Franklin Road, Johnson City, TN 37604. The TNPS group rate is $139 per night for a room with a king-size bed and sofa bed or 2 queen-sized beds. A block of rooms will be reserved for TNPS until May 10th. You may also call the hotel at (423) 929-8000 to book your room. You will need to reference the Tennessee Native Plant Society group and the dates required to receive the group rate. Some park cabins may still be available.

Catered dinners on Friday and Saturday evenings are available before the evening programs. A box lunch is also available on Saturday. Cost per person per meal is listed below.

A schedule of hikes and talks are posted on our website.

Registration fee $25 per person: # people _____ @ $25 = _____

Friday evening dinner: # people _____ @ $18 = _____

Saturday box lunch: # people _____ @ $15 = _____

Saturday evening dinner: # people _____ @ $22 = _____

(The deadline for meal ticket purchase is May 15th) Total payment: $_____

Are you interested in purchasing a conference tee shirt? ($20-$25) Yes No (Circle one)

Registrant #1 Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Special Needs _____

Registrant #2 Information:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Special Needs _____

Make check(s) payable to **TNPS** and send to: Kim Sadler, 4830 Conquer Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37128. Questions? Email: *treas@tnps.org*

When Are Dues Due?

Membership dues are due one year from the date of last payment. You will receive a reminder email 5 days before expiration asking you to renew. There is currently a grace period of 65 days in which you retain your membership status.

If you go into your membership portal (Login) you will see when your membership is due to expire. You may also renew your membership, if it is near expiration, and sign up for auto renewal if you wish. Payment is either by credit card or delayed payment if you mail a check. If there have been changes to your email or physical address, please update your membership.

If you have any questions or problems, contact support@tnps.org.

TNPS Newsletter
P.O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215

TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 48 Number 2 June 2024

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Plant Profile: Gray's Lily

by Bettina Ault

Gray's lily (*Lilium grayi*), one of the iconic plants of Roan Mountain, is a beautiful but critically endangered lily found in the high mountains of only three states: Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia. It prefers the acid soils of high mountain bogs and seeps but is also found on grassy balds and openings at high elevation.

Gray's Lily, *Lilium grayi*

Photo by Donna Bollenbach

Gray's lily was first discovered on Roan Mountain in 1840 by the renowned Harvard botanist Asa Gray. Gray initially thought it was a red-flowered variety of a northeastern lily species, Canada lily (*Lilium canadense*). However, Sereno Watson, one of his former students at Harvard, reexamined the specimens in 1879 and identified them as belonging to a separate species. He named the plant *Lilium grayi* in honor of his mentor.

Vegetative tissue of Gray's lily emerges in mid spring; leaves are borne in whorls of 3-4. Flowers appear in June-July. The flowers are nodding and are borne in umbels. The perianth (floral tube) is made of 6 tepals (indistinguishable sepals and petals; characteristic of all species of *Lilium*). The tepals are only slightly retroflexed (curled back), as opposed to species of *Lilium* with strongly retroflexed tepals such as turk's cap lily. Because of this the anthers are contained inside the floral tube and cannot be seen from the outside. Inside the floral tube there are splashes of orange and yellow, and the outside has gorgeous purple to reddish-brown spots. The only known reliable pollinator of Gray's lily is the ruby-throated hummingbird. The fruit is a trilocular dehiscent capsule which produces around 200 flat winged seeds

(Continued on page 4)

TNPS Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the Tennessee Native Plant Society and is published four times a year, generally March, June, September, and December.

The Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS) was founded in 1977. Its purposes are to assist in the exchange of information and encourage fellowship among Tennessee's botanists, both amateur and professional; to promote public education about Tennessee flora and wild plants in general; to provide, through publication of a newsletter or journal, a formal means of documenting information onTennessee flora and of informing the public about wild plants; and to promote the protection and enhancement of Tennessee's wild plant communities.

Dues for each calendar year are:

Individual/Family: $20

Student: Complimentary

Institution: $50

Life: $250

Dues may be sent to:

Tennessee Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 159274

Nashville, TN 37215

Officers
Karen Ripple Hill, President
Allan Trently, Vice-President
Bettina Ault, Secretary
Jennifer Trently, Asst. Sec.
Kim Sadler, Treasurer

Directors
Anne Ballentine
Sue Bible
Dennis Horn
Bart Jones
Larry Pounds
Mitchell Kent

Newsletter Editor
Donna Bollenbach

President's Musings

Our 2024 Conference and Annual Meeting are about to happen and promises to be the best attended in at least a decade. Despite the challenge of road closures which forced changes to our field trips, this should be an interesting, informative, and fun event. I'm personally looking forward to visiting with friends old and new, as this is our one big get-together each year.

At the top of my To-Do list during the conference is seeking volunteers for officer positions, board members, and committee members. That's because at our May Board of Directors meeting, we approved a revision of our by-laws to include the new positions of Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary. The reasoning behind this is that all three officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer) will then have an assistant, a backup in training, someone who can learn the job before it becomes their job. It allows us to have someone ready to step into an officer's position at a moment's notice should that become necessary. It also means that these positions won't feel as intimidating for someone interested in taking a leadership role with TNPS. Could that someone be you?

All officer positions are up for reelection this year. I will be stepping down as President, Allan Trently (current VP) is unable to step up. Bettina Ault will be resigning as secretary after the TNPS meeting, as she has moved out of state. Jennifer Trently is filling in. Kim Sadler will accept reelection as Treasurer. I'll still be around and involved, but I'm moving over to the role of Past President, which is an advisory position.

Three of our six board members are up for reelection: Larry Pounds (East), Mitchell Kent (East), and Dennis Horn (Middle). Dennis will not accept reelection.

We also have room on many of our committees for new members. Committee membership provides a great way to participate in board meetings without the responsibility of voting on issues. Committee members serve as advisors. They help the officers and board members manage the tasks necessary to keep our non-profit organization functioning smoothly, and successfully educate members and the public about the importance and beauty of our Tennessee native plants. And yes, we become a large group of friends in the process.

Wouldn't you like to join us?

Committees include:

Nominations –Allan Trently & Bart Jones, Co-chairs
Field Trips – Bart Jones & Allan Trently
Education Outreach – Mitchell Kent, Chair
Grants – Anne Ballentine, Chair
Seminars – Karen Hill, Chair
2025 Conference – Bart Jones
Communications – Sue Bible, Chair

Sign up sheets will be available at the conference for those who might consider volunteering, or a message of interest can be sent at any time to info@TNPS.org. Without volunteers TNPS cannot survive in the present form. Based on your interests, please consider volunteering your time and talents to this incredible non-profit organization.

Now, let's go pack our bags for Roan Mountain. I'll see you soon!

Karen

P.S. My dear friend and long-time member of TNPS, Alice Jensen, passed away peacefully on May 12th. She will be celebrated with a Remembrance on her 89th birthday, August 31 at the cemetery on her beloved Horse Mountain in Shelbyville where her ashes will be buried.

Attention Teachers, Parents & Grandparents: Please share with the teachers of your children or grandchildren!

"Grants 4 Native Plants" Applications Now Available

The Tennessee Native Plant Society now sponsors grants for schools (public, private, and home) that utilize the *Symbiotic Schoolyard* curriculum or a similar hands-on program that includes planting native plants. The application deadline for 2024 grants is **June 30th**. Teachers may apply for new grants annually.

Schools/teachers receiving these grants will receive up to $500 for native plants and supplies. They will be supplied with one *Wildflowers of Tennessee* book and one *Woody Plants of Kentucky and Tennessee* book for use as references. Additionally, a mentor will be provided to assist in decisions regarding site selection, plant choices, planting techniques, maintenance needs, and possibilities for future planting projects. We want to help ensure that these plants thrive along with their young gardeners.

The grant application deadline is June 30, 2024. Grant award notifications will be made by August 1, 2024, along with contact information for the TNPS supplied mentor who will be assisting with the project. The mentor will then meet with the teacher and other school personnel to formulate an Action Plan that includes the location of the area to be planted and its characteristics, the plants that the students will plant, and how they will be cared for when the students are present and during student vacations. The grant check will be delivered AFTER the Action Plan has been submitted to TNPS.

Once the planting project has been completed, we ask that TNPS be provided with before and after photos of the planting site, along with a student written article. Along with the photos and student written article about the experience, an extended or updated maintenance plan for the site should be submitted to TNPS by May 1, 2025.

Application and Action Plan forms are available at https://www.tnps.org/native-gardens/.

Symbiotic Schoolyard Curriculum

Symbiotic Schoolyard guides students as they "take on the role of restoration ecologists to figure out how to increase the biodiversity of their own schoolyard. Through hands-on lessons they figure out that planting native plants restores a complex food web." This is a project-based and highly engaging 8-week curriculum designed for middle school and upper elementary school students recently developed, tested, and successfully implemented by a variety of schools.

The author, Janneke Petersen, was a middle school science teacher who wanted to empower students to solve problems like biodiversity loss, and to study the local ecosystem, not those on other continents. When she couldn't find the curriculum that she felt was needed, Janneke developed her own curriculum, and now provides that curriculum for other like-minded teachers. To learn more about *Symbiotic Schoolyard* or to purchase the program which has everything you need to teach for 8 weeks, visit www.SymbioticSchoolyard.org. Janneke Petersen also gave our April seminar; the video of that seminar is located at www.TNPS.org/tnps-speakers.

(Continued from page 1)

in August to October. The plant then dies back and overwinters as a scaly bulb. It usually takes *L. grayi* 3-7 years to become reproductively active.

Gray's lily is truly a high elevation plant. The highest elevation at which specimens were reported is Grassy Ridge Bald on Roan Mountain (6184 ft.). The lowest elevation at which specimens of true Gray's lily have been found is 3500 ft. Gray's lily has a very limited range. Historical records show Gray's lily in 17 counties in eastern Tennessee, western North Carolina, and southwestern Virginia. The most recent survey lists 46 extant populations in 15 counties, but some of these populations have not been visited in many years and it is not clear how many are still there. A recent survey conducted in 2020-2021 by Ben Brewer with Dr. Matt Estep's research team from Appalachian State University found 29 populations. Gray's is listed as a concern by nearly every conservation agency. Its NatureServe classification is G1 (critically imperiled). It is a Federal Species of Concern and is listed as Threatened in North Carolina, Endangered in Tennessee, and Imperiled in Virginia.

Gray's Lily, *Lilium grayi*

Photo by Donna Bollenbach

The reasons for the critical status of Gray's lily are many and complex. Risk factors include limited geographic distribution and range and anthropogenic factors such as habitat loss and, disappointingly, poaching. Herbivory (browsing) by deer is also a significant risk.

A serious threat to Gray's lily is lily leaf spot disease, which is caused by a fungus known as *Pseudocircosporella inconspicua*. This lily-specific fungus, which was first noted on a Eurasian lily species in 1884, can infect all species of the genus Lilium. It begins as yellowish spots on the leaves and can spread to all above-ground tissues, causing wilting and premature senescence, so that the plant never bears fruit. Lily leaf spot disease was first noted in Gray's lily in 1947 and was identified as being due to *P. inconspicua* in 1998.

Another threat to Gray's lily is its hybridization with *Lilium canadense*. Canada lily is an orange-flowered species which occurs as far north as southern Canada. The plant is larger than Gray's lily and the tepals are more orange. Flowers are pendant as opposed to Gray's lily flowers, which are nodding, and the tepals are strongly reflexed, so that the anthers can be seen from the outside of the flower. These differing characteristics have allowed investigators to see hybridization in plants at the northernmost end of the Gray's lily range; this hybrid is called *Lilium xpseudograyi*. The majority of the Gray's lily plants in southwestern Virginia fall into this hybrid spectrum; there is a gradient along the Blue Ridge Parkway from south to north, with the plants in the southern end of the range looking more like *L. grayi* and those in the northern end having more characteristics of *L. canadense*. Because *L. canadense* is more numerous than *L. grayi*, concern is that with time hybridization will dilute out the unique characteristics of Gray's lily.

There are several things we can do to protect this rare and beautiful plant. Hikers in Gray's lily's geographic range are encouraged to stay on trails and not touch the plants (just tilting up the flowers to see the inside can spread lily leaf spot disease to other parts of the plant or to other plants and cause premature senescence). And education of the public and research are essential. Dr. Estep and his research team are studying the health of Gray's lily populations, including examining them for evidence of lily leaf spot disease and of hybrization with *L. canadense*. Gray's lily seeds have been banked at the North Carolina Botanic Garden, and research on the effect of various environmental factors including deer browsing is being conducted at the Tater Hill Plant Conservation Preserve. (A very interesting spring 2022 Lunchbox Lecture from NC Botanical Garden on this topic can be viewed on YouTube). Also, Dr. Estep will be speaking on conservation of high elevation plants at the 2024 TNPS annual meeting; we should get an update on Gray's lily during his talk.

2024 TNPS Field Trip Reports

MARCH 5, UTK Herbarium Tour, Knox County

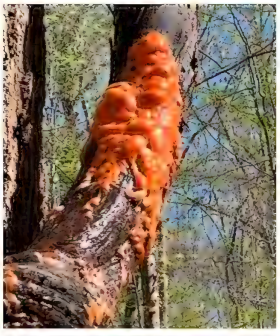
fieldtrip report by Margaret Oliver

Eight society members battled University of Tennessee - Knoxville baseball fans for parking and received a tour of Tennessee's largest herbarium as their reward! The tour was led by Margaret Oliver and Allen Sweetser.

The tour began with an introduction to herbaria and the history of the TENN Herbarium before entering the temperature and humidity-controlled space where the specimens are housed. Visitors got to learn about the different curation methods herbarium staff use to help organize its over 649,000 vascular and non-vascular plant, fungal, lichen, and macroalgae specimens and heard about the types of research the specimens contribute towards. There were also a variety of specimens from the herbarium's "Cabinet of Curiosities" on display that visitors were able to see up close, such as part of a caribou skeleton collected in 1958 near Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow), Alaska that's covered in a species of 'petticoat / dung moss' (*Splachnum* sp.), which grows on different types of animal remains.

MARCH 30 Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, Shelby County

fieldtrip report by Allen Trently



Deer Vomit

On Saturday, March 30th, Bart Jones and Allan Trently led a 3-mile wildflower hike along the Woodland Trail at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park in Shelby County. This TNPS event was also a Tennessee Division of Natural Areas Natural Areas Week event. Natural Areas Week was March 30 to April 7. Thirteen people participated in the hike. Though a few plants were past flowering, the group was treated to a vast array of wildflowers.

We had over 30 plants in flower. One plant highlight was little brown jug (*Hexastylis arifolia*). The entire known population for this plant in all of west Tennessee occurs along the Woodland Trail. The closest documented population in Tennessee is 200 miles east. Little brown jug is one of many disjunct plants found on the Chickasaw Bluff of Meeman-Shelby. Another highlight of the hike was not a plant. We were fascinated by vernal orange slime (also called Deer Vomit Slime) dripping from a grapevine. The slime is actually a complex of many organisms including yeasts and other fungi, bacteria, protists, and other organisms.

Little brown jug, *Hexastylis*

APRIL 13 Frozen Head State Park, Morgan County

fieldtrip report by Larry Pounds

Yellow mandarin, *Prosartes*

Once again TNPS and TCWP joined together to enjoy nature and companionship at Frozen Head led by Larry Pounds. By starting early, 8:30, we were able to find parking at the Panther Branch trail head. In previous years we have had to avoid this superb wildflower trail because of the parking.

The weather and the turnout (17) were good. We hit the peak displays for dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolius*), yellow mandarin (*Prosartes lanuginosa*), spotted mandarin (*Prosartes maculatum*), northern red trillium (*Trillium erectum*), and large-flowered bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*). We turned back at a lovely thirty -foot cascade down shale ledges.

APRIL 13 Rock Island State Park, Warren and White Counties

Fieldtrip report by Dennis Horn

Sixteen participants came ready to hike and look for wildflowers along the Twin Falls trail by the Caney Fork River, led by Dennis Horn. Recent rains caused the river flow to run higher than normal and the falls to sound especially loud. Spring was slightly past peak condition, but there were plenty of plants to enjoy.

The spring flowers included woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), long-spur violet (*Viola rostrata*), wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), Cumberland spurge (*Euphorbia mercurialina*), and three trilliums (*Trillium cuneatum*, *T. sulcatum*, and *T. recurvatum*). Beyond the fisherman's Blue Hole were purple phacelia (*Phacelia bipinnatifida*), Huger's carrion flower (*Smilax hugeri*), and a yellow wood tree (*Cladrastis kentukea*).

Dwarf ginseng, *Panax trifolius*

After lunch the remaining group hiked the short loop trail adjacent to the Badger Flat picnic area. There we found umbrella magnolia tree in flower, spice bush and leatherwood shrubs both in fruit. Also along the path were large-flowered trillium (*T. grandiflorum*) turning pink, dwarf ginseng (*Panax trifolius*), and green violet (*Hybanthus concolor*) in flower.

APRIL 20 Head of Sequatchie, Cumberland County

Fieldtrip report by Larry Pounds

TNPS/TCWP (15 of us) took to the trails around the new headquarters for Cumberland Trail State Park, led by Larry Pounds. This state park is rather linear running along the 300 mile long Cumberland Trail (CT). South bound from here on the CT the next trail head is 16 miles away at Stinging Fork Falls.

Wild geraniums, *Geranium maculatum*

First we visited Devil's-Step-Hollow. It is a large cliff-sided sink hole with a cave leading into darkness at its bottom. The cave is famous for its ancient Native American art. Not surprisingly the cave is closed to the public. The upper part of the sink was covered with wild geraniums (*Geranium maculatum*).

After viewing the huge spring which is the start of the Sequatchie River, we followed the CT. The wild hyacinths (*Camassia scilloides*), recurved trilliums (*Trillium recurvatum*) and false garlics (*Nothoscordum bivalve*) were outstanding but the bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) were almost all in fruit. Though not striking, green violet (*Hybanthus concolor*) was of interest as a strange violet.

APRIL 20 Stillhouse Hollow SNA, Maury County

Fieldtrip report by Bart Jones

The morning brought showers and thunder, but by the time we had gathered in the parking lot of the natural area, the clouds were parting and the sun was smiling on us! A great day lay before us. The trip leaders were Bart Jones and Cynthia Rohrbach.

By the time we started our way down the trail, there were 23 of us ready to enjoy this joint hike with the Swan Conservation Trust, a local conservation group that was instrumental in protecting this site and several others in the area. Stillhouse Hollow Falls is one of the most-visited natural areas in the state, and that love is beginning to take its toll on spots along the trail where folks have decided to make shortcuts. Still, this is a beautiful jewel of the Western Highland Rim.

Along the way down into the hollow, we were greeted with a few lovely pinxter flowers (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*), one of which was an Alabama azalea (*R.alabamense*) hiding out. We also pointed out several oak-leaf hydrangeas (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) just putting out their namesake leaves. Notable flowers along the upper part of the trail were two-flowered Cynthia (*Krigia biflora*) and Quaker ladies (*Houstonia caerulea*).

Alabama Azalea, *Rhododendron alabamense*

As with most hollows in the Highland Rim, the heads boast beautiful, trickling waterfalls descending over the brink. Stillhouse Hollow Falls definitely falls into this category and was worth the short detour to view. On the way to the falls, we saw several gorgeous wildflowers: Virginia spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*), Eastern blue-star (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*), wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), fire pink (*Silene virginica*), and Solomon's plume (*Maianthemum racemosum*).

Great waterleaf, *Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*

The highlight of the trip was to visit the most recently acquired parcel that hasn't been developed, so a little bushwacking was in order but worth the effort. This part of the natural area has a slightly different set of wildflowers, including bent trillium (*Trillium flexipes*), dwarf larkspur (*Delphinium tricorne*), great waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum appendiculatum*), Miami mist (*Phacelia purshii*), and celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*).

Bent trillium, *Trillum flexipes*

Spring is such a wonderful time in Tennessee, and it's always great to spend it with flower-loving friends!

APRIL 27 Oak Ridge Greenway, Anderson County

Fieldtrip report by Larry Pounds

Corn salad, *Valerianella radiata*

This event was sponsored by TNPS and TCWP. Seven of us walked on the greenway along Haw Ridge, led by Larry Pounds.

Appropriately for the ridge name the native shrub or small tree rusty blackhaw was in flower along with some invasive non-native shrubs. Blooming native herbs included corn salad (*Valerianella radiata*), wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*), and blue star (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*). Not in flower were green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*), Canada lily (*Lilium canadense*) and spreading false foxglove (*Aureolaria patula*).

As has been the case this time and on other paved surface outings we did not include any participants who required the pavement. Of course, people can enjoy this type of outing even if they don't need the even surface.

TDEC Designates Roger McCoy Honorary State Naturalist

In a press release issued by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation on April 23, 2024, TDEC has designated state Director of Conservation Programs Roger McCoy with the honorary State Naturalist title, the third person ever to hold the title in the state.

The honorary title is given to a TDEC staff member who displays a wealth of knowledge and a special ability to share an appreciation of Tennessee's natural resources with the public. It recognizes the experience, expertise, and commitment of an employee who advances conservation stewardship within the department and beyond our boundaries.

"The state naturalist honorary title is given to an individual who possesses an unparalleled understanding of conservation in Tennessee and shares their love of the outdoors in a way that deeply motivates others to be stewards," said TDEC Deputy Commissioner Greer Tidwell. "Roger has dedicated his career to sharing his understanding of our rich natural resources with Tennesseans, and his work merits this unique designation."

Two people previously held this role as State Naturalist before McCoy. Mack Prichard, who was instrumental in the acquisition of more than 40 sites for state parks, natural areas, and archaeological areas, was the first. Prichard, who died in 2020, was a mentor to Randy Hedgepath, who became State Naturalist in 2007. Hedgepath presented interpretive programs and led interpretive walks, hikes, and waterfall tours. He retired in 2023.

Prichard and Hedgepath are each now listed as State Naturalist Emeritus.

TNPS congratulates Roger McCoy on this Honorary title and thank him for his role in protecting Tennessee's natural resources.

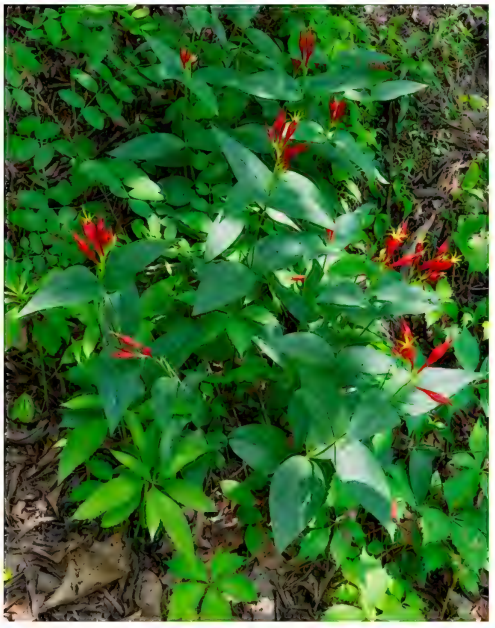
MAY 11 Big Soddy Creek Gulf Park, Hamilton County

Fieldtrip report by Donna Bollenbach

Nodding beardtongue, *Penstemon laxiflorus*

With a break in the rain and a drop in the temperature, the weather couldn't have been better for our field trip to Big Soddy Creek Gulf on Saturday, May 11. Ten people met in the park's parking lot for the plant walk led by Mitchell Kent.

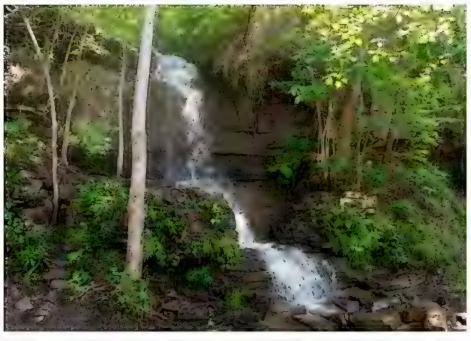
The trail that runs through the park is an old mining road. It follows a natural gorge flanked by Big Soddy Creek on one side and steep rocky bluffs on the other. Most of the trail is shaded by a canopy of large trees. After rainfall, water drips down the bluffs, creating a moist environment that supports plant species that thrive in rich, damp soil and partial shade.



Indian pink, *Spigelia marilandica*

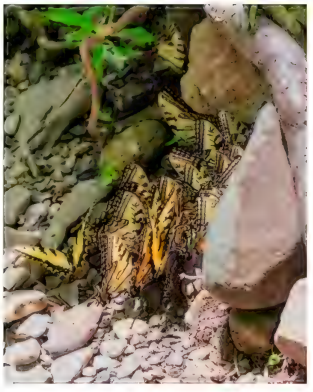
One such wildflower and the showstopper of our hike was the vibrant red Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica)*, also called Pinkroot. The tubular flowers have a yellow center and grow in small upright clusters on the top of the stem. It was prolific in the moist soils on the slopes and below the cliffs.

We also saw an abundance of nodding beardtongue (*Penstemon laxiflorus*). This white funnel-shaped flower is tinged with lavender and has a yellow and purple throat. In the same habitat we spotted White Bergamot(*Monarda clinopodia)*. More flowering plants (both native and non-native) we saw were oxeye daisies, yellow star grass, common fleabane, two-flower Cynthia, hairy vetch, and more.



The waterfall at Big Soddy Creek Gulf

As for wildlife, we saw a very robust fence lizard on a log and several butterflies, including the uncommon golden-banded skipper. I also observed a large band of tiger swallowtails puddling near the water.

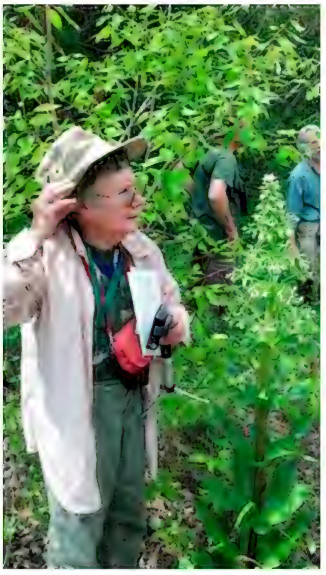


Swallowtail butterflies puddling

Last, I must mention the waterfall. After several days of nonstop rain, the waterfall along the trail was gushing over the cliffside. Surrounded by bright green spring foliage and lush ferns, it was quite beautiful.

In Memory of Alice Jensen (1935-2024)

Alice Jensen of Fishers, Indiana and Shelbyville, Tennessee, passed away peacefully on Mother's Day, Sunday May 12, 2024, at the age of 88. Alice grew orchids and other interesting plants in her many greenhouses on her beloved Horse Mountain. Her love of plants was not limited to orchids, however. She loved nature from the smallest fungi to the largest tree.



She participated in The Orchid Society of Middle Tennessee, the Tennessee Native Plant Society, and the Georgia Botanical Society. Alice's camera traveled with her wherever she went along with an ever-changing collection of photos that she would proudly show to anyone and everyone. She participated in many TNPS hikes over the years and most of the conferences, always with her camera and equipment in tow. A few years back Alice even led a hike on Horse Mountain that included a visit to her greenhouses. She also enjoyed attending the TNPS board meetings because she enjoyed the camaraderie of the board members.

Almost two years ago Alice became ill enough to land in the hospital, ending her many activities and pursuits. When it became clear that Alice would not fully recover, her son Hans moved her to a facility very near his home in Fishers, Indiana, and her greenhouses were closed. Alice did manage to start a small "greenhouse" at the facility where she lived and took care of it when she was able.

Alice is one of the remaining children of World War II. She was born and raised in Berlin, Germany. Alice's father Alwin perished at the end of the war when every male who had not been drafted yet was being sent to the front.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the pavilion at Horse Mountain Cemetery behind the Trinity Baptist Church in Shelbyville, TN on Alice's birthday August 31st at 1:00 pm. For more of Alice's story check her obituary here: https://www.arnmortuary.com/obituaries/alice-jensen

In Memory of George Shuford Ramseur Sr. (1926-2024)

With great sadness, we report the death of longtime Professor of Biology and Sewanee Herbarium founder George Ramseur. Ramseur joined the University of the South Sewanee faculty in 1958. He served as department chair from 1984 to 1989—and was instrumental in advancing the University's reputation as a premier undergraduate institution for the study of biology and environmental sciences. George was a tireless advocate for education in the field, and taught courses in general botany, plant ecology, plant taxonomy, plant physiology, and general biology for 35 years until retiring as professor emeritus in 1993.

Image Courtesy of the University of the South

In 1959, George founded the Sewanee Herbarium to provide student research opportunities in field botany and plant conservation through faculty- and peer-mentored programs. As an ecologist and conservationist, he was committed to protecting the virgin forests of the University of the South domain.

George S. Ramseur, Sr. of Sewanee, Tennessee died peacefully March 24, 2024, surrounded by his family.

For more of George Ramseur, you can read his obituary here: www.moorecortner.com/obituaries/George-Shuford-Ramseur

The Tennessee Native Plant Society Presents
2024 Native Plant Seminars & Fieldtrips

The Tennessee Native Plant Society hosts monthly Native Plant Seminars via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Central (7:30 p.m. Eastern) and lasting about one hour. All members, and potential members, are welcome to attend the seminars. The link to join each seminar will be posted on the *Seminars* and *Calendar* pages of our website (www.tnps.org).

TNPS Native Plant Seminar Schedule for the remainder of 2024:

June 18 – Sandra Villasenor, Cane Brakes

July 16 – Alisha Mullican, *Fungus Among Us-An Intro to Fungi for the Home Gardener* (updated)

August 20 – Connie Deegan, Snakes in Your Garden

September 17 – Sara Wittenberg, Pollinators in the Garden

October 15– Elizabeth Hermsen, Plant Fossils of Tennessee

November 19 – Adam Bigelow, Wildflowers of Southern Appalachia

TNPS Fieldtrip schedule for the remainder of 2024

June 18 (TUESDAY) Southern Grasslands Institute and Prairie Project, Montgomery Co.

July 13 (SATURDAY) Ghost River SNA-Walker Tract, Fayette Co.

August 17 (SATURDAY) Ketona Glades, Bibb Co, Alabama

September 7 (SATURDAY) Big Hill Pond State Park, Bioblitz, McNairy Co

September 28 (SATURDAY) Walker Branch SNA, Hardin Co.

You can find details about each fieldtrip on our website.

When Are Dues Due?

Membership dues are due one year from the date of last payment. You will receive a reminder email 5 days before expiration asking you to renew. There is currently a grace period of 65 days in which you retain your membership status.

If you go into your membership portal (Login) you will see when your membership is due to expire. You may also renew your membership, if it is near expiration, and sign up for auto renewal if you wish. Payment is either by credit card or delayed payment if you mail a check. If there have been changes to your email or physical address, please update your membership.

If you have any questions or problems, contact support@tnps.org.

TNPS Newsletter
P.O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215

Tennessee Native Plant Society
EST. 1978

TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 48 Number 3 September 2024

Poison Ivy, Toxicodendron radicans

By Bettina Ault

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The featured plant in this issue is our old friend poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*, formerly *Rhus radicans*). This common vine/shrub is widely considered a nuisance because of its propensity to cause dermatitis, but it is an integral part of many forest ecosystems.

Poison ivy is a member of the Anacardiaceae (cashew family), which includes many temperate and tropical species including cashews, mangos, and sumac. *Toxicodendron radicans* is found throughout the eastern US from Quebec south to Florida and west to the Rocky Mountains. A related species, eastern poison oak (*T. pubescens*) is found in the southeastern US from Virginia westward to Texas and Oklahoma. Western poison ivy, *T. rydbergii*, occurs in the western US. An additional dermatitis-causing *Toxicodendron* species, poison sumac (*T. vernix*) is found in a few TN counties along the western Cumberland Plateau and two counties in northeast TN (including Shady Valley).

Identifying poison ivy is of course important (we are taught the time-honored phrase "Leaves of three, let it be"). *T. radicans* can occur as a climbing or trailing vine or a shrub.

Climbing vines are notable for a hairy appearance secondary to numerous aerial rootlets. ("Don't touch hairy tree trunks"). Leaves are alternate and compound with three leaflets. The end leaflet has a long stalk and a pointed tip; the lateral leaflets are stalkless. Leaves are pale green when young and become dark green as they mature; margins may be smooth or notched, even on the same plant. Leaves turn a vibrant red in the fall. *T. radicans* is dioecious, with male and female greenish-yellow flowers borne on separate plants in May to July. The fruit, which is mature in August-October, is a drupe (a fleshy outer coating surrounding a seed with a

(Continued on page 6)

TNPS Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the Tennessee Native Plant Society and is published four times a year, generally March, June, September, and December.

The Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS) was founded in 1977. Its purposes are to assist in the exchange of information and encourage fellowship among Tennessee's botanists, both amateur and professional; to promote public education about Tennessee flora and wild plants in general; to provide, through publication of a newsletter or journal, a formal means of documenting information onTennessee flora and of informing the public about wild plants; and to promote the protection and enhancement of Tennessee's wild plant communities.

Dues for each calendar year are:

Individual/Family: $20

Student: Complimentary

Institution: $50

Life: $250

Dues may be sent to:

Tennessee Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 159274

Nashville, TN 37215

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Larry Pounds
Mitchell Kent

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Donna Bollenbach

President's Musings

The weather is starting to shift into cooler nights, so we know fall is coming. There are many more hot days ahead of us, but there has been a subtle shift. Goldenrod, wingstem, and ironweed are either blooming or preparing to bloom. The many species of cone flowers are being reduced to seed heads. And I'm watching my first crop of pawpaws for signs of ripening. This week along an empty stretch of county road we were treated to a massive display of sundrops blooming bright yellow. I don't recall ever seeing them there before this lovely surprise.

Iron weed, *Vernonia gigantea*

Change is also coming to TNPS. At the end of December I will step down after four wonderful busy years as President. Mitchell Kent, whom many of you met at our Roan Mountain Conference (which he masterfully organized) has agreed to take the reins with my blessing. I'm sure he will do a great job of leading this wonderful organization.

Nominations for other positions are being finalized and will be announced in September. As is true in the garden, the only constant is change. That's what allows plants (and us) to grow.

Some exciting events have been happening in the background this year that will be covered in a Round Table Seminar later this fall. It's not strictly TNPS but does affect us and our members. Some of us have been busy amending and revising our town/county ordinances to REQUIRE new developments to plant a minimum of 50% native plants and prohibiting the planting of invasive species. We are not asking to allow the planting of native species, we are working on requiring native species!

So far we have been successful in two townships, and are assisting in others. We are also looking at making changes at the county level. The catch is that we can only do this within the jurisdictions where we reside. We can advise and guide others to do the same where they live, and that will be the focus of the Round Table--to guide others in making a change in their town, in their county. If we can develop momentum across the state, then maybe we can convince the Tennessee legislature to pass a state-wide ordinance or law. There are real possibilities, but it requires a little effort by a lot of folks across the state. And I'm not being facetious about a little effort. The process is surprisingly easy. Think about it. Is this possible in your town?

Join us at the RoundTable where we will share our experiences and answer whatever questions you might have. Timing of this seminar will likely be in November. We will send out a notice by email and post it on our website calendar.

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Karen

TNPS typically provides an annual scholarship to the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference, but this year we also provided a scholarship for our TNPS Conference at Roan Mountain SP. Emily Sue Laird was selected from among our student memberships to receive a scholarship covering conference registration, meals, and lodging. As a grad student at UT Knoxville, she had just wrapped up her practicum project on "Rewilding the Oakwood-Lincoln Park neighborhood in Knoxville through native and high-ecologically performing plantings in residential lawns." Congratulations Emily!

Our inaugural award group of six schools received $500 grants to purchase Tennessee native plants for student plantings in connection with a suitable curriculum. In addition to a $500 check each school receives two books for reference: *Wildflowers of Tennessee* by Horn et al. and *Woody Plants of Kentucky and Tennessee* by Jones and Wofford. A mentor was also provided for each school to help guide site selection, plant choices, planting techniques, maintenance needs, and possibilities for future planting projects at their schools.

Congratulations to the following schools, teachers, and mentors! We look forward to seeing before and after photos of your achievements next spring.

- **Arlington Middle School** in Arlington, TN (near Memphis) – Teachers: Sherida Person and Shannon Blackburn – Mentor: Glenda Rhodes
- **Decaturville Elementary School** in Decaturville, TN – Teachers: Christee Pettigrew and Brynn Kelley -- Mentor: Bart Jones
- **Nolensville High School** in Nolensville, TN – Teacher: Anna Crombie – Mentor: Rebecca Abel
- **Normal Park Museum Magnet School** in Chattanooga, TN –Teacher: Matty Hardy – Mentor: Terri Joyce
- **Saint Rose of Lima Catholic School in Murfreesboro**, TN – Teacher: Ben Garretson – Mentors: Phyllis Kitzler and Kate Patrick
- **West High School in Knoxville, TN** – Teachers: David Krebs and Kathryn Hensley – Mentor: Robyn Cooper

These grants were made possible in part by the generous contribution of Margaret Fletcher in honor of her late husband Chaplain Col. Russ Ragon of Chattanooga. Grant applications are currently closed, but will reopen next spring.

May 11, Skymont Scout Reservation Orchids

Fieldtrip report by Chuck Wilson

Fourteen intrepid individuals elected to explore Skymont Scout Reservation near Altamont, Tennessee, on a beautiful clear day in May in spite of recent severe storms that damaged some of the anticipated orchid species.

At the first site down a gentle slope were several lily-leafed twayblade (*Liparis lilifolia*) plants, a few of which had survived the strong winds and rain. Further down and closer to a stream that had clearly flooded but now receded were a few of the very rare Loesel's twayblades (*Liparis loeselii*) that had been damaged by swept debris but somehow had survived.

Loesel's twayblades, *Liparis loeselii*
Photos by Chuck Wilson

The second site was a mesic flat mixed pine/hardwood woods that hosted hundreds of pink lady's-slippers (*Cypripedium acaule*) that had also been impacted by the recent strong winds but a few of the blooms survived. At their prime, the orchids at this spot exhibit interesting color variations and their density yields a spectacular sight. There was some evidence of soil disturbance by armadillos at this site.

Site manager David Young graciously offered to show us other wetland areas on the 2500-acre reservation for our exploration. At several points he recounted the remarkable temporary increase in water depth during the recent storms. Plant expert Dennis Horn assisted in identifying various wildflower species that were encountered. Some other orchid species not yet in bloom were found, including dozens of *Platanthera* leaves at the base of a rather spectacular waterfall.

May 25, Devil's Breakfast Table, Scour Prairies

Fieldtrip report by Larry Pounds

Cumberland rosemary, *Conradina verticillata*. Photo by Dennis Horn

The day started with heavy thundershowers, but 12 of us gathered at Daddy's Creek to view a strange type of prairie. Most natural prairies depend on dryness, shallow soils, and fire to keep the trees and shrubs out. The small prairie we saw uses shallow soil and the scouring force of occasional flood waters to maintain its openness. Too much scouring would eliminate the prairie plants, while too little would allow trees to survive.

Scoured habitats are unusual enough to have plants that are restricted to them. For example, Cumberland rosemary (*Conradina verticillata)* is found only in scoured habitats along three river systems, all on the Cumberland Plateau. These are the Obed, Big South Fork, and Caney Fork. Damming of these could easily have led to the extinction of the Cumberland rosemary. Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning successfully fought dams on both the Obed and the Big South Fork. Our visit was timed right to see Cumberland rosemary in full flower.

July 13, Ghost River State Natural Area

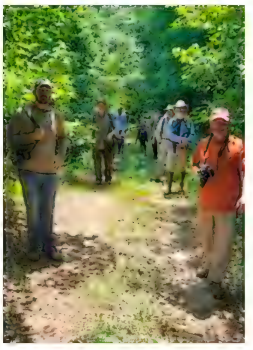
Fieldtrip report by Allan Trently

On Saturday, July 13th, Allan Trently led ten participants into the sand post oak barrens located within the Ghost River State Natural Area in Fayette County. This was a joint event with TNPS and the Tennessee Division of Natural Areas (TDNA).

Sand Post Oak, *Quercus margaretta, Photo by Allan Trently*

The sand post oak barrens is a unique plant community in Tennessee. In the state, the community is only found along the sandy hills adjacent to the Wolf River in Fayette County. There is no other place in Tennessee where this community exists. Tennessee species of special concern found in the barrens include Plukenett's flatsedge (*Cyperus plukenetii*), sand post oak (*Quercus margaretta*), as well as the state endangered plant capillary hair sedge (*Bulbostylis coarctata*).

In addition to these rare plants, we also observed Catesby's false bindweed (*Calystegia catesbeiana*), hoary skullcap (*Scutellaria incana*), lots of legumes (family Fabaceae), butterfly milkweed, (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and many others.



Participants at the TNPS and TDNA joint event.

July 20, Balsam Mountain Loop Tour

Fieldtrip report by John F. White

On July 20, 2024, six people attended the Balsam Mountain Field Trip despite overcast and rainy weather. Allen Sweetser and John F. White, co-leaders, anticipated the impact of the weather on potential attendees. However, as the trip began, the sky cleared, and a wonderful day of observing flowers followed.

During July, plenty of wildflowers were in full bloom at higher elevations along the Blue Ridge Parkway and in the Balsam Mountain area. This was in contrast to lower elevation areas where many of the flowers were starting to fade. We spotted around fifty-nine species of wildflowers during our stops and short hikes, and that doesn't even include the different types of trees, shrubs, and ferns we saw.

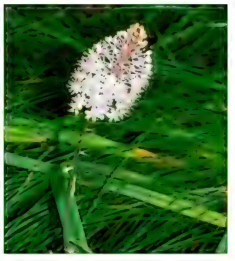
Wildflower species, such as Leather Vasevine (*Clematis viorna*), Hollow Joe-Pye weed (*Eutrochium fistulosum*), and Turk's-Cap Lily (*Lilium superbum*), were observed at Blue Ridge Parkway overlooks. Heintooga Road overlooks offered Featherbells (*Stenanthium gramineum*), Greater Tickseed (*Coreopsis major*), Deptford Pink (*Dianthus armeria*), Filmy Angelica (*Angelica triquinata*), Hairy Wood Mint (*Blephilia hirsuta*), and Dwarf St. John's Wort (*Hypericum mutilum*), to name a few.

In the Balsam Mountain area, we saw White Wood Aster (*Eurybia divaricata*), Fly Poison (*Amianthium muscitoxicum*), Rugel's Ragwort (*Rugelia nudicaulis*), Large False Hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), and one of the best finds of the day, Southern Blue Monkshood (*Aconitum uncinatum*).

Leather Vasevine, *Clematis viorna*

Turk's-Cap Lily, *Lilium superbum*

Deptford Pink, *Dianthus armeria*



Fly Poison, *Amianthium muscitoxicum*

Southern Blue Monkshood , *Aconitum uncinatum*

(Continued from page 1)

hardened coat), initially green and then white when mature. Poison oak is similar, except that the leaves are pubescent (hairy) and slightly lobed. A number of plant species have enough resemblance to poison ivy to cause confusion: box elder (Sapindaceae), mock strawberry (Rosaceae), jack-in-the-pulpit (Araceae), and American hog peanut (Fabaceae) leaves resemble *T. radicans* and can be unfairly accused.

Plants in the Anacardiaceae can be highly allergenic. The allergen is urushiol, a complex mixture of organic oils released when the leaves or other parts of the plant are crushed. The oil can also be transmitted by smoke from burning. Urushiol consists of a catechol ring with attached hydrocarbon side chains of various lengths and degrees of saturation. The ability of urushiol to induce an allergic reaction may vary depending on the degree of unsaturation of the hydrocarbon side chains (less than half of the general population develops a reaction to saturated side chains, while as many as 90% may react to side chains with unsaturated bonds). The classical reaction to urushiol (classic poison ivy reaction) is Type IV (delayed-type or T-cell-mediated) hypersensitivity: the initial symptoms (rash, blistering, and itching) usually appear in 24-48 hours and can last for 2-3 weeks. In the United States about 70-85% of individuals react to urushiol. 10-15% may not get dermatitis initially, but it may develop with repeated exposures. The response to urushiol may fluctuate with time.

Treatment of urushiol dermatitis is mainly supportive, with cool water soaks and oatmeal baths, oral antihistamines, and topical corticosteroids (and occasionally oral steroids or steroid injections in severe cases). Topical Benadryl is not felt to be helpful in relieving symptoms and can even lead to an allergic reaction in some individuals. The most important thing is prevention: avoiding the plants when possible, wearing gloves when gardening, and prompt removal of the oil from the skin with soap and water (dish detergent is as effective as and much cheaper than fancy poison ivy soaps). It is possible to get urushiol dermatitis from secondary contamination (from clothing, shoes, tools, or the fur of pets), and precautions should be taken. Jewelweed (*Impatiens*) is a time-honored folk remedy for poison ivy: the crushed leaves are said to help prevent dermatitis when applied to skin exposed to poison ivy, and it has been noted that jewelweed is often found growing near *T. radicans* (not surprising, as both plants thrive in moist edge woods). Sadly, there is no evidence that jewelweed has much effect on urushiol dermatitis in clinical trials. Mashed jewelweed leaves appeared to decrease the degree of dermatitis when applied promptly to exposed skin, but they were no more effective than Dawn dishwashing detergent and water. Jewelweed extract had no effect. However, the good news is that for individuals with a tendency for severe cases, as of 2021 a vaccine is in development at the University of Mississippi to try to decrease the immune response to urushiol.

Although poison ivy has caused a good deal of human misery and is often considered a nuisance, it is a vital part of ecosystems across the US. The fruits provide food for more than 60 species of birds. They are particularly helpful to overwintering birds when food supplies are scarce. The leaves are eaten by white-tailed deer, black bears, raccoons, and rabbits and several species of reptiles and amphibians; unlike humans, animals do not have adverse reactions to urushiol. Over 100 insects and mites, including several species of moths, use *T. radicans* as a host plant.

Unfortunately, climate change has expanded the range of *T. radicans*. A research team from Duke increased carbon dioxide concentrations in an experimental forest to levels predicted for around 2050 and noted that increased levels of CO2 resulted in bigger plants with larger leaves and higher levels of urushiol.

So, in summary:

- Leaves of three, let it be!
- Don't touch hairy tree trunks.
- Wash your skin and any objects contaminated with poison ivy oil with soap and water.
- Jewelweed is pretty, but it doesn't do much for preventing or treating poison ivy rash.

(Continued on page 7)

2024 Native Plant Seminars & Fieldtrips

The Tennessee Native Plant Society hosts monthly Native Plant Seminars. These events are held via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Central (7:30 p.m. Eastern) and last about one hour. All members, and potential members, are welcome to join the seminars at no cost. The link to join each seminar will be posted on the *Seminars* and *Calendar* pages of our website: www.tnps.org

Most past seminars are recorded and linked to our Seminars website page.

Seminar speakers are drawn from our knowledgeable membership, from professionals across the state, and from the professors and students studying our Tennessee native plants. A range of topics will be covered that may include plants that are currently blooming, native plants in our yards, current research on native plants, protections for native plants, and so much more.

Join us for an hour a month to learn more about Tennessee native plants.

Upcoming TNPS Seminars

September 17 – Sara Wittenberg, Pollinators in the Garden

October 15 – Elizabeth Hermsen, Plant Fossils of Tennessee

November 19 – Adam Bigelow, Wildflowers of Southern Appalachia

Upcoming TNPS Fieldtrips

Details of each fieldtrip are in the March 2024 Newsletter and on our website: www.tnps.org

*(*If you RSVP it helps with planning and carpooling)

September 7 (SATURDAY) Big Hill Pond State Park, Bioblitz, McNairy Co. Leader**:** Cooper Breeden, cooper.breeden@segrasslands.org (615-545-3277)

September 21 (SATURDAY) Crab Orchard Mountain Powerline Fall Flowers Leader: Margaret Cumberland, meshearin@gmail.com, (919-339-0072)

September 28 (SATURDAY) Walker Branch SNA, Hardin Co Leader: Allan Trently allan.trently@tn.gov (731-234-4887)

(Continued from page 6)

- Poison ivy is important for wildlife.
- More poison ivy is likely coming in future years.

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Wallis C. A vaccine against poison ivy misery is in the works as scientists also explore new treatment paths. Scientific American. 1Sep2021.

NPR news segment: Why poison ivy loves climate change. WBUR, August 30, 2023.

When Are Dues Due?

Membership lasts one year from the date of last payment. You will receive a reminder email 5 days before your expiration date asking you to renew. There is currently a grace period of 65 days in which you retain your membership status.

If you enter your member portal (**Login**, on any website page) you will see when your membership is due to expire. This is where you should renew your membership and/or sign up for auto renewal if you wish. Payment can be made either by credit card or delayed so you can mail a check. If you do not renew through the member portal, but instead use one of the **Join TNPS** buttons, you will create a separate duplicate membership account. This requires an administrator's attention to "merge" the two accounts, so please don't do this.

When choosing whether to receive the newsletter in print or email, please keep in mind that we do not print the newsletter in full color, but email copies and copies on the Newsletter page of our web-site are in full color.

If there have been changes to your email or physical address, please make those updates through the membership portal. If you have any questions or problems, contact support@tnps.org.

TNPS Newsletter
P.O. Box 159274
Nashville, TN 37215

TENNESSEE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 48 Number 4 December 2024

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Plant Profile: Oak-Leaf Hydrangea

Year round color in your native landscape

by Donna Bollenbach

When my husband and I decided to replace the non-native azaleas that bordered the front of our house, we considered several native plants and ultimately chose the Oakleaf Hydrangea, *Hydrangea quercifolia*. Here are some reasons why:

Native Plant: Oakleaf Hydrangea is native to Tennessee and the southeastern United States.

Optimal Soil Conditions: Oakleaf Hydrangeas thrive in soil that is slightly acidic, rich in organic matter, and well-drained, making it suitable for the same conditions that azaleas prefer.

Oakleaf Hydrangea in summer

Sunlight Needs: These hydrangeas prefer full sun to partial shade. However, too much sun can scorch their leaves. The front of our house offers partial shade in the morning and full sun in the afternoon, which is ideal.

Availability: Oakleaf Hydrangeas are readily available at native plant nurseries. We attended a native plant sale and purchased plants that were already 2 to 3 feet tall. Two of our plants are called "Ruby Slippers," a more colorful nativar.

Growth Characteristics: Although Oakleaf Hydrangeas grow only 1 to 2 feet per year, they spread as wide as they grow tall, making them an excellent choice for a border shrub.

Low Maintenance: Once established, Oakleaf Hydrangeas require minimal maintenance and typically do not need pruning. There are techniques to selectively cut back parts of the plant to encourage new growth or blooms if desired.

Year-Round Beauty: Oakleaf Hydrangeas offer visual appeal throughout the year. They feature large, fragrant, cone-shaped clusters of flowers, and their leaves, which resemble oak leaves, change color with the seasons and persist on the plant well into winter.

(Continued on page 5)

TNPS Newsletter

This newsletter is a publication of the Tennessee Native Plant Society and is published four times a year, generally March, June, September, and December.

The Tennessee Native Plant Society (TNPS) was founded in 1977. Its purposes are to assist in the exchange of information and encourage fellowship among Tennessee's botanists, both amateur and professional; to promote public education about Tennessee flora and wild plants in general; to provide, through publication of a newsletter or journal, a formal means of documenting information onTennessee flora and of informing the public about wild plants; and to promote the protection and enhancement of Tennessee's wild plant communities.

Dues for each calendar year are:

Individual/Family: $20

Student: Complimentary

Institution: $50

Life: $250

Dues may be sent to:

Tennessee Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 159274

Nashville, TN 37215

Officers
Karen Ripple Hill, President
Allan Trently, Vice-President
Bettina Ault, Secretary
Jennifer Trently, Asst. Sec.
Kim Sadler, Treasurer

Directors
Anne Ballentine
Sue Bible
Dennis Horn
Bart Jones
Larry Pounds
Mitchell Kent

Newsletter Editor
Donna Bollenbach

President's Musings

Thank you. Thank you for allowing me to lead this wonderful organization for the past four years. It has been a privilege to be entrusted with leading such a storied group that is so highly regarded throughout Tennessee and the region.

We weathered the Covid lockdowns by using zoom to continue meeting as a board, and quickly added our very successful monthly Native Plant Seminars to keep us together and moving forward in educating ourselves and the public about our native plants. We digitized Dennis Horn's 3000 photos and stored them in a Dropbox library along with all our critical documents.

Education and Outreach Coordinators now attend multiple events across the entire state to recruit new members, sell our wildflower books, and help educate the public about our beautiful native plants. Our field trips and annual conference/ meeting continue to be well attended allowing us to focus on the native plants in specific habitats. Our numbers have grown to the point that we contracted with NeonCRM this past year to manage our memberships and donations. And this year TNPS initiated Grants 4 Native Plants to provide schools with the funds needed to purchase native plants and mentors to help students plant them as part of a hands-on curriculum about biodiversity and native plants. I am so looking forward to seeing what these six schools accomplished when they report back in May. Watch for their student reports and photos in the May issue of our newsletter produced quarterly by our talented Editor, Donna Bollenbach.

And thank you to the officers and directors who have supported my sometimes crazy ideas. Specifically: Allan Trently for being my back up whenever asked, Kim Sadler for so competently managing our finances, Bettina Ault for doing our meeting minutes even when her body was failing her, Dennis Horn for his institutional and plant knowledge that helped maintain the core continuity of TNPS, Bart Jones for stepping in wherever needed, especially with field trips, conferences, and nominations; Mitchell Kent for so masterfully handling our most recent conference and being my partner in the issue fraught transition to NeonCRM. Thank you to Sue Bible, Larry Pounds, Anne Ballentine, Suzy Askew, Ken Rea, Mary Priestley, Shelley King, Joanna Brichetto and Jennifer Trently for being my sounding board, advisor, and stepping up to help whenever asked. I could not have managed this job without the assistance, guidance, and knowledge of each and every one of you. I am grateful for your presence and participation in this grand (sometimes challenging) adventure. TNPS is a better organization for the active participation of all these marvelously talented people.

And a special thanks to those who will be new members of our leadership this coming year: Tim Kaltenbach, Lesley & Jesse Gunn, and Juanita Wade. You are all welcome members of the leadership team.

(Continued on page 6)

Bring Native Plants to Our Towns

by Karen Hill and Deborah Rosenthal

Have you wondered how we can protect the native plants in our yards, both volunteer and planted? Because many developers and HOAs treat native plants as weeds, not recognizing their value to the environment or how readily available natives have become at most plant nurseries, they may need some prodding to make good choices. So, let's push them!

Early this year I met up with Deborah Rosenthal, a retiree who had motivated the Town of White Bluff in Dickson County as well as Dickson County itself, where she resides, to pass an ordinance *requiring that developments meeting certain threshold requirements plant at least 50% native plants and prohibiting the planting of invasive species*. These were the first such ordinances in Tennessee! But not the last!

Checking with my township of Thompsons Station I learned that they were in the process of revising the town's Land Development Ordinance. My town manager, Micah Wood, was contacted to ask if it was too late to make a few more changes. His reply prompted me to quickly read the proposed revised ordinance, hone in on the areas dealing with landscaping and plants, and with guidance from Deborah, propose additional changes. Specifically:

"All required landscaping material shall be composed of at least 50% native plants. The calculation shall be based on the quantity of plants. The use of invasive plant species, as specified by the Land Development Manual, shall be prohibited."

[The Land Development Manual referred to was also updated, but did not require BOMA approval.]

Four definitions were also revised:

"**Endangered/threatened Flora:** Plant species that are in danger of extinction throughout all or part of their range, or are likely to become endangered in the near future. The Tennessee Natural Heritage Program, Rare Plant List, is a comprehensive listing of endangered/threatened species in Tennessee and shall be used as a reference for purposes of this Ordinance."

"**Invasive Plant Species:** Introduced (exotic) plant species that are not native to Tennessee and may be invasive or possess the characteristics to become invasive and cause damage to native plant communities. This includes both established and emerging threats as indicated by the Tennessee Invasive Plant Council (TNIPC) and/ or the Land Development Manual."

"**Native Plant Species:** Plants that occur naturally in an area where they evolved without human introduction or manipulation."

"**Natural Vegetation:** plants, grasses, shrubs or trees native to Middle Tennessee."

The revised Land Development Ordinance passed first and second readings by the Thompsons Station Board of Aldermen, then went into effect July 1, 2024. The entire process took place in just a few months.

You can do the same for your town/ city/county. A first key step is identifying people you may know who are involved in your jurisdiction's decision making and determining who among them may be native plant allies. You may be surprised by what you learn. We can provide guidance, assistance, and templates based on our experiences. To that end, we will offer a panel discussion including Amanda Harrington, the planner for Dickson County and White Bluff who was critical to getting the ordinances passed in those areas. The panel will be held via zoom on Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30 pm Central (7:30 pm Eastern) on the steps we have taken to revise our local ordinances to include native plants in our landscaping and to prevent use of invasive species.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

The zoom link can be accessed via the Calendar at www.TNPS.com.

These ordinances are not retroactive. We cannot change the past, but we can affect what happens in the future! We continue to be busy in our local areas and coaching folks in other areas of the state. There is movement in the Town of Franklin, plus Williamson and Knox counties, to change their ordinances. Will your town and county be next? Join us on December 10th to learn more about the possibilities. This panel discussion will be recorded and posted on the TNPS website.

In Memoriam – Bettina Ault

Contributed by Bart Jones

Bettina will be remembered for her smile.

TNPS lost another shining star in the early morning hours of November 12 when Bettina Ault left us. She was a long-time member of the society and our Secretary for the past several years.

I met Bettina over 35 years ago when she did a fellowship in the lab next to mine. Of course at work, most of our conversations revolved around the science we were doing and I had no idea of her love of nature of all sorts. But I do remember her enthusiastic spirit for anything she endeavored to do and her fun and quirky personality. Little did I know that 15 years later our lives would circle back and our friendship would expand exponentially through TNPS.

Many people think I invited Bettina to join TNPS, but it was more a confluence of fate than anything else. As I recall, Bettina first heard of TNPS through her participation at the Wildflower Pilgrimage and immediately joined the society. After that, she was looking over the field trip schedule for the remainder of the year and saw a familiar name leading a field trip – me. What a surprise it was when I saw Bettina pull up! Bettina, always the inquisitive sponge for knowledge, became an instant regular on our trips. She also began to participate in the butterfly counts I conducted and quickly gained the ability to ID most of the species we encountered.

Bettina was a pediatric nephrologist and practiced at LeBonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis for many years before accepting a position at Erlanger Baroness Hospital in Chattanooga. Even after moving to Chattanooga, Bettina made it a point to attend as many of my field trips and butterfly counts as she could. She met her soulmate Harland Alpaugh and brought him along for both. Bettina and Harland even participated on one of my butterfly counts this past June.

Harland and Bettina

Bettina loved TNPS and all the members that she met, she loved chasing eclipses, attending the Kidney Camp to help children find some happiness during their battles with kidney disease, and spending time trekking through her beloved Smoky Mountains. She was a warrior who fought her disease with a smile on her face and with laughter among friends. Our thoughts and sympathy pour out to Harland, a magnificent caregiver and support for Bettina. Our field trips will be just a little less brilliant without Bettina.

TNPS Outreach to Nashville Youth at LIV Golf Tournament

by Karen Hill

Over fifty youth from Nashville, TN, attended a "Show and Tell" on native plants given by TNPS member Lesley Gunn as part of LIV Golf's outreach to the community. The LIV Golf Tournament was held on June 21-23 at The Grove Golf Course located in College Grove, TN. Three local organizations that work with disadvantaged youth, Black Lemonade, Backfield in Motion, and Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee were invited to meet Stinger GC team golf pros and practice their golf shots. Afterwards the children and teens headed to a pavilion to learn about our Tennessee native plants. Since it was a "Show and Tell" format, flowers, leaves and seeds were passed around so everyone could get a look at our native purple coneflowers, gray headed coneflowers, and Black-eyed Susans. Several of the children asked questions or made comments about the content. The presentation also stressed the importance of native plants and how they are interconnected with birds and insects.

"Golf is deeply intertwined with nature, creating a unique bond that we must nurture for future generations. By educating young people about their natural surroundings and the crucial role of a healthy, biodiverse ecosystem, we empower them to become ambassadors of the planet. At LIV Golf, we're dedicated to fostering this connection, ensuring that golf not only thrives in harmony with nature but also champions environmental sustainability," said Jake Jones, SVP Impact and Sustainability at LIV Golf.

After the presentation on native plants, the youth enjoyed snacks and then headed to the shuttle buses. One little boy was carrying a Black-eyed Susan in each hand as he boarded the bus to travel back to Nashville. A short video is available at https://youtu.be/-8lTmJas4O0 .

Note: Many thanks to LIV Golf for their generous donation to TNPS.

(Continued from page 1)

The best times to plant oakleaf hydrangeas are spring or fall. New growth appears at the tips of the branches and displays a vibrant green color. The flowers bloom in cone-shaped clusters from the bottom up and consist of both fertile and non-fertile flowers on the same panicle.

In mid to late summer the flowers began to turn pink

By summer, the large clusters of flowers turn creamy white, while the foliage becomes bright green. If you want to use some flowers for indoor arrangements, it's best to cut them right after they bloom in the summer.

As early as late June, the flowers on our Oakleaf Hydrangeas began changing from white to pink. The color transition starts at the bottom of the cone and progresses upward. The tips of the leaves were starting to take on a reddish hue. By early July, many flowers of the Ruby Slippers variety had turned a reddish pink,

In October and November, most of the leaves were rich shades of red and burgundy, and the cones of flowers ranged in color from dusky white to brown.

Bob and I agree that the Oakleaf Hydrangea is an excellent choice for our landscape.

The ruby slippers turned a reddish pink in July

In October and November the leaves were rich shades of red and burgundy and the flowers began to brown.

2024 TNPS Field Trip Report

SEPTEMBER 21, Crab Orchard Mountain Powerline

fieldtrip report by Margaret Cumberland

On September 21, a dozen people led by Margaret Cumberland hiked up a TVA powerline near Crab Orchard to see what was flowering this fall. The yellow goldenrods and purple blazing stars made a nice contrast, with some white thoroughwort thrown in. The highlight was finding a few areas flagged by a TVA native plant study that led us to seeding wood lilies. A small brave group after the powerline ventured into a wetland to find a few blooming gentians.

Soapwort Gentian, *Gentian Saponaria*
Photo by Dennis Horn

Thoroughwort, *Eupatorium* spp.
Photo by Donna Bollenbach

Goldenrod, *Solidago* spp. *Photo by Donna Bollenbach*

Wood Lily, *Lilium philadelphicum*
Photo by Dennis Horn

(Continued from page 2)

New officers, board members, and committee members will step into their new positions on January 1, 2025, although many are already busy learning their new roles. I will remain an active part of TNPS, but I'm transitioning to the role of Past President. I hope to remain on some committees but transition off over the next several months as others take over new roles.

The slate of new officers and board members are listed on page 7. Please welcome Mitchell Kent and his team as your new leaders and assist them in whatever way you can. I'm confident they will be wonderful in their new leadership roles.

Now I'm going to enjoy a walk where I can crunch fallen leaves and smell the coming of winter!

Karen

Late note: TNPS Secretary and my friend Dr. Bettina Ault passed away quietly on November 12th after fighting cancer for several years. A natural burial service will be held on December 3rd at 1 PM Central at Larkspur Conservation, 155 Bear Carr Road, Westmoreland, TN 37186. Please arrive by 12:15 PM. Friends and family are welcome to bring fresh flowers (no vases, please). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Camp Okawehna (a special camp for children with end-stage renal disease that Dr. Ault cherished for over 20 years), the National Kidney Foundation, or the Tennessee Native Plant Society.

TNPS Elections

The following members were nominated, ran unopposed, and therefore elected with no further election procedures required. (Per Article VII, Section 3 (c) of our Bylaws) All terms are for two years (1/1/2025 – 12/31/2026). We appreciate that these members are willing to offer their time and talents for the benefit of TNPS.

Officers

President – Mitchell Kent, Chattanooga
Vice President – Tim Kaltenbach, Nashville
Treasurer – Kim Sadler, Murfreesboro
Assistant Treasurers – Lesley & Jesse Gunn, College Grove
Secretary – Sue Bible, Hendersonville
Assistant Secretary – Juanita Wade, Chattanooga

Board of Directors

Ken Rea, Johnson City
Mary Priestley, Sewanee
Larry Pounds, Oak Ridge
Allan Trently (Jackson) will finish out the term of Sue Bible. Bart Jones (Memphis) and Anne Ballentine (Memphis) have another year left on their terms.

If you are interested and willing to offer your time and talents, please check out the various committees listed on the Directors page. If you find something you would like to do, then send an email to info@tnps.org. Many hands make for light work for all.

2025 Fieldtrip

JANUARY 16 (Thursday, 6 PM EST) UTC Herbarium at University of TN, Chattanooga

Join us for a guided tour of the UTC Herbarium on the University of Tennessee (UTC) campus in Chattanooga hosted by curator, Joey Shaw, PhD. In addition to his work in herbarium curation, Dr. Shaw is UC Foundation Professor at UTC and conducts research in floristics of the Southeast, plant species of conservation concern and others. The UTC Herbarium is the oldest herbarium in Tennessee, established in 1886 and is the third largest in the state. It contains approximately 45,000 specimens of macroalgae, seedless and seed-bearing plant specimens primarily from southeastern Tennessee, northwest Georgia, and northeast Alabama. It is associated with Southeastern Regional Network of Expertise and Collections, or SERNEC through which it provides online access to digitized specimens for research by other universities and the public.

Meeting Place/Time: The UTC Herbarium is located at 215 Holt Hall inside the UTC Department of Biology, Geology and Environmental Science on the UTC at 702 Mocs Alumni Drive. We will meet in front of the UTC Holt Hall at 5:50 PM Eastern. Visitor parking is available nearby off Vine St in Lot 10. There is no charge for visitor parking after 5 pm and no requirement for a visitor pass according to the University Parking Services after hours.

Leaders: Mitchell Kent (mkent423@gmail.com) and Dr. Joey Shaw
Please email Mitchell to let us know if you plan to attend.

2025 Native Plant Seminars

1/21/2025 - Connie Deegan on *Coexisting with Snakes*
2/18/2025 - [to be announced]

A complete schedule of 2025 Fieldtrips and Online Seminars will be published in the March newsletter.

When Are Dues Due?

Membership dues are due one year from the date of last payment. You will receive a reminder email 5 days before expiration asking you to renew. There is currently a grace period of 65 days in which you retain your membership status.

If you go into your membership portal (Login) you will see when your membership is due to expire. You may also renew your membership, if it is near expiration, and sign up for auto renewal if you wish. Payment is either by credit card or delayed payment if you mail a check. If there have been changes to your email or physical address, please update your membership.

If you have any questions or problems, contact support@tnps.org.

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